

The Traveler

God
is still
speaking,



April 2018

JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

**The Vision of our Church is to increase Faith, Hope,
Love, Community and Belonging.**

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: Barry George

2017 Consistory

President:	Ed Brader	484-357-3551	braderwoodcraft@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Rick Anderson	610-681-3878	Randerson@serviceteam.com
Acting Secretary:	Lyn Summers	610-681-4412	juccsecy@ptd.net
Additional Members:	Terry Goodhile	Paula Abel	Matthew Binder
	Marcia Heinick	Wendy Hoppel	Laura Maliszewski
	Delbert Knecht	Beverly Waibel	Lorrie Nothstein

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Dear Members and Friends,

Here is a recently successful idea for increasing church attendance: Give away new cars! A large church in Maryland recently did this and doubled its attendance those Sundays. Our little church sanctuary might not hold such large numbers; but what about a Sunday gift card drawing? Do you think that would work? Perhaps it would; but is it our goal to have people attend church for that reason?

Bishop Kenneth Carder (Methodist) wrote recently: “The church of today has become an institution in which even belief in God is optional or peripheral. Marketing techniques for a multiple option institution have replaced response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the means of membership enlistment. The basic appeal is to self-defined needs rather than a call to radical discipleship. The church’s mission all too often is to meet its members perceived needs rather than to serve God’s need for a redeemed, reconciled, and healed world.”¹

To me this conjures up thoughts about the warning letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. A list the warnings to those churches might be summarized like this: 1.) Don’t forget you love God; 2.) Sacrifice will be necessary; 3.) Church is about the Gospel; 4.) Idolatry has no place inside or outside your walls; 5-6.) Repentance, patience and faith are essential; 7.) Don’t make Christ spit because you have strayed so far from the real plan of God.

We have just observed Holy Week, seven days that begin on Palm Sunday with much praise for Christ, quickly followed by his terrible betrayal, suffering and death. We need to remember that God redeems us by grace through faith alone, but this does not mean we can ignore God working in our hearts, who urges us into our journey with Christ. That journey takes commitment, sacrifice and love for others. Where is the best place to make this happen? In church, of course; but not because you might be the lucky winner of stuff. Because you love God and are called into church to work out God’s amazing plan for your eternity. As long as I am the pastor of this church, I will always make it about response to the gospel.

Hallelujah! He is Risen! See you in church!

Pastor Kathryn

¹ Brett Blair, “When the Cheering Stopped.” Sermons.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT

APRIL 2018

Hello Fellow Members and Friends,

Several weeks ago, during the Sunday morning announcement time, I mentioned that the planning process is moving forward on our Church building addition. As I also mentioned, and more importantly, we all need to consider what part each of us will have in the future ministry of our Church, and how each of us is called to be disciples for Jesus Christ.

Over the past summer, our Visioning Committee established a list of ministry objectives and challenges. Recently, part of that ministry has started with the formation of the women's group "55 & Alive!". This group very quietly organized and from what I've been told, their numbers are increasing. I look forward to seeing where this group's ministry is headed. They have started the ball rolling!

Below is a list of many more opportunities for other groups form and find their ministries. I urge everyone to study the list and find a category that might interest you.

God calls on is all to work together to be his disciples. Don't ever be afraid to take the first step to do God's will.

Peace Be With You!

Ed Brader

Consistory President

Partial Visioning Committee List for Ministry

- Women's and/or men's fellowship group – develop their own special projects
- Consider host church for Family Promise
- Develop a "worshipful" concert series offering Christian or other inspirational music
- Programs for Senior Fellowship
- Bible Study groups
- Small group fellowship – i.e. exercise, walking group, quilting & sewing
- Provide free community meals
- Crop walk – program to raise money for food ministries
- Provide volunteer support for local food pantries
- Help with Valor House for veterans
- Youth seminars – monthly on various types of concerns and interests for our youth perhaps with guest speakers
- Provide facility for support groups i.e. alcohol or drug addictions, grief and loss support, marriage and divorce, single parenting or parenting support
- Health education group – meetings on health-related issues
- Develop evangelism growth committee

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held July 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th and a closing program will be on Sunday, July 29th at the morning service. After the service, children and families are invited to a family carnival to celebrate a fun week of sports, arts, learning and exploration into the depths of God's love.

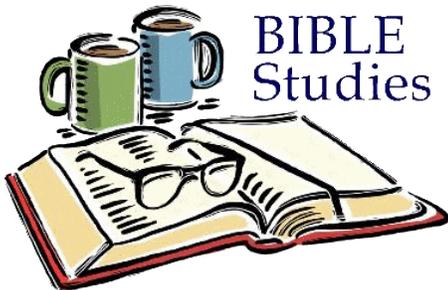
(hint...hint...) the theme will be revealed soon!

Let's just say – scuba gear is optional!

Pre-registration forms will soon be available at the back of the sanctuary as well as online. We hope to see lots of children

ages 2 to 12. Any questions, please contact

Marcia Heinick at mheinick@ptd.net.



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY!

Pastor Kathryn will be leading a 9-week bible study on the book of Revelation. The dates are Tuesday, March 27th, and then changing to Thursdays through May 24th, beginning April 12th (not including Tues, April 3rd). The group will meet from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A book purchase called "Revelation for Everyone" (the one with purple floral cover) by N.T. Wright (ISBN 978-0-664-22797-5) is required. The book is currently available from various booksellers for around \$10-\$12. The Apostle John wrote this "revelation" using symbolism, so participants should have a basic knowledge of Christian theology to get the most value from the study.

55 & ALIVE FOR LADIES!

We will be meeting the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. April meetings will be 4/3/18 & 4/17/18 @ 11:30 am. **On April 3rd – bring along your favorite recipe!** Also bring a bag lunch.

We'll provide coffee, tea, water or soda.

Hope to see you there!!



“YOUTH REASON TOGETHER”

The JUCC Youth Group for ages 13 to 17, also known as “Youth Reason Together” or YRT, has had quite an exciting start to 2018. We are religiously (ha) holding our monthly meetings on the last Sunday of every month, we and have gotten a lot of great ideas for events and activities down on paper, with a tentative outline for the coming year. In February, our group planned a trip to Blue Mountain to go tubing, but February decided to bring us 70 degree days that messed up our plans... guess we should have proposed that for SPRING instead!!

We participated in the church shelter program with Family Promise at the beginning of March and also held an incredibly successful St. Patrick’s Day party / Game night – with 19 youth that attended! It was a great night of friends, fellowship, games, shamrock shakes, and don’t forget the prizes, cabbage rolling and silly string. The youth will also be cooking breakfast for the church on Easter Sunday, so come and eat pancakes and sausage that morning! (see prices in this newsletter).

In April, a trip to an indoor water park is on the agenda (because with this weather, we may still have snow!), and then planning for a possible trip to the UCC Regional Youth Conference in July.

We are always looking for and welcome any volunteer/service opportunities – so please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas! Looking forward to seeing more of our youth (and friends) at JUCC this year!

Thank you for supporting the youth of JUCC!
Jessie Walters, Youth Director



**COMMUNITY SAUSAGE &
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
EASTER MORNING – APRIL 1, 2018**
Sponsored by our Youth Group
Ages 11 and up - \$5.00
One child 10 and under FREE
with one at regular price
Additional children 10 & under - \$3.00
Serving from 7:30 am to 10:00 am.
In the Fellowship Hall

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

Lynn Mastio-Rice and Paul Rice, both natives of Easton, PA, now live in Bethlehem, PA with their two cats, Deeker-Boy and Alfie-Girl. Lynn was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church, Easton, and Paul, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wilson Borough. Both musicians, they enjoy playing & singing with God's House Band on Sundays along with other venues.

Sitting on the piano bench next to her Dad is where Lynn developed her love of singing and performing. Lynn received a B.A. in Theatre and a Minor in Vocal Performance from Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. Afterwards, she received an M.F.A. in Acting from the Goodman School of Drama/DePaul University, Chicago. Paul attended Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently an Account Manager with Advanced Vacuum Company, which remanufactures vacuum pumps for industry. Paul has one daughter who is an elementary school teacher, and two siblings.

Lynn, a singer, and Paul, playing drums, perform with "The Main Street Cruisers" and "Bill Haley's Comets and the Comets Rock & Roll Show". Both groups are 50's, 60's and 70's show bands that have taken them all over the United States. "The Cruisers" were fortunate to be able to perform at JUCC's church picnic last year and are looking forward to playing there again this year.

Lynn also sings with The Lehigh Valley Chorale under the direction of Ed Milisits. Lynn is a professional actress as well as a singer and has credits in film, theatre and commercials. You can ask her about those films, some of which were selected for both Cannes and Sundance Film Festivals. She also performed with the 1st National Tour of "The Music Man" for three years and 687 performances!

Both Lynn and Paul enjoy Sunday morning church at JUCC singing with the band and the choir. When Lynn is not performing she works part-time as a Banquet Server for Mack Hospitality and as a Standardized Patient for Lehigh Valley Health Network. Lynn enjoys her busy life with her husband Paul (her favorite drummer.) The best thing about their shared life is that they can support each other in their musical pursuits and make each other's dreams a reality!





2018 CALENDAR

The following are JUCC’s dates for hosting families along with Jerusalem Lutheran:

May 20th through May 26th

August 12th through August 18th

November 11th through November 17th

56TH ANNUAL MEETING OF PNEC ~ Saturday, April 14, 2018

Theme: “Exploration”

Workshop Leader: Rev. Michael Piazza

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

Cost: \$35 pp includes registration materials,
continental breakfast, breaks and lunch

Activities include displays, book signing, AMC Conveners’ Conversation

Joint Conference Vision & Development Team Conversations

See back counter for more information



DONATIONS NEEDED!

Mary Beth Beers’ daughter, Patty Sanville, is asking for donations of knitting & crocheting supplies such as yarn or needles. Patty teaches classes in “Fiber Arts” – which consists of knitting and crocheting, to children and adults, as well as some church organizations.

Patty works with the Maryland Sheep Association.

If you have supplies that you would like to donate to this cause, please contact Mary Beth at 610-377-9779 for further information.

Kelly Heinick, Matt Binder, Maddy Serio
and Braden Kline are in
“THE SOUND OF MUSIC”
through the Palmerton Drama Club. The shows
will be April 12th through April 14th starting at
7:00 pm @ Palmerton High School



JUCC FLEA MARKET 2018
Beverly Waibel will once again organize the church flea
market, set for June 8th and 9th, 2018. If you are able to help
on the committee, please let her know. If you have things to
donate, and can keep them until then, your donations will be
appreciated. Thank you ~ Beverly!!

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Every 1st Sunday of each month, we will collect a special
offering called “Joyful Noise”. This offering is collected in the
metal buckets set out at the church sanctuary exits. The offering
is specifically taken for CACPAC (Christian Action Council of
Palmerton Area Churches) and is used for the food pantry in
Palmerton. Please give your spare change, or more generously,
so others can find some joy!

Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The
Lord!



Tune in to TV Channel 69 (WFMZ) for JUCC
closings, or log onto wfmz.com or Blue Ridge Cable
TV Channel 13 for updates for weather-related
closings and delays.

