

THE TRAVELER

God
is still
speaking,



SEPTEMBER 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

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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	Lorrie Nothstein
	Delbert Knecht	Beverly Waibel	



Dear Members and Friends,

Matthew 6:14 says:

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Does this mean that if we do not forgive others that God will not forgive us and so we will lose our salvation? No, I do not think so. Scripture tells us that God offers us salvation based on faith and trust in Christ our Lord, and that God will save us for eternal paradise through Christ alone. Perhaps it is a sin to be unforgiving, but Christ covered that sin too.

However, not forgiving others may get in the way of your emotional peace and can get in the way of your relationship with God. When we do not forgive others, it harms us. Now that does not mean that we have to trust those who harmed us, or harmed others. When others harm it is often because they are close enough to us to hurt us. People earn higher degrees of trust in relationships by experience. We tell children not to talk to strangers for that reason. We need to protect ourselves from the harm others may do to us.

Forgiveness is something you do inside your soul. You can let go of the hurt. You can let what others did be their problem and go about your life. If you get an opportunity to restore relationship and can trust that person again because they have repented of their actions, then do so. If not, forgive, and forget about them while still protecting yourself. God knows that this world, and many people, can be treacherous.

Deciding upon who is “at fault” in something can also be a problem. If the opposite is true, and you harm someone unjustly, God says not to come and give offerings to God if you know this. Go and be reconciled first, because if you do not, God will not think much of your offering.

Forgiveness is tough; but not having peace with God and yourself is usually much tougher. Why do you think it is so important to God that you forgive?

See you in church!

Pastor Kathryn

**MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT
SEPTEMBER 2018**

Hello Fellow members and friends of JUCC ~

It's hard to believe the summer of 2018 is almost over. SO many wonderful things have taken place over the last 3 months, and there are many more great things on the horizon. God is certainly working his plan at JUCC.

At this time, I want to take the opportunity to update the progress on the plans for our church addition. We had our architect complete the final updates to our preliminary building addition plans. We have hired the engineering company to develop the required land plan that is necessary to begin the permitting process with the township. We have met with the township zoning officer and applied for a building permit. The initial application was denied because our addition does not meet the necessary road set-back requirement. However, we knew going in that this would happen, and now we must apply to the township zoning hearing board for a variance. All preliminary indications are that it should not be a problem to obtain the needed variance.

We are currently waiting for our engineer to complete the first stage of the land plan which is needed for the zoning hearing board's review. Unfortunately, the board only meets once a month. Timing can be an issue as we wait for the engineer's plan to be completed.

All that being said, it is our hope to have all things ready for the October zoning meeting. After we receive approval for the variance, we will give our architect the green light to proceed with the final construction drawings. We will then secure three (3) bids and schedule the start of construction.

As of now, this is the outline of this process. We will keep you posted as time and changes occur.

Peace be with you,

Ed Brader – Consistory President

CHOIR NEWS!

Soon our 9:00 summer blended services will come to an end for 2018. Many have expressed that they found these services meaningful and enjoyable. Some suggestions came in, too, and our Music & Worship Committee recently discussed some possible tweaks for next year. Input is always welcomed!

With the 'new' season comes the return of our beloved Senior Choir. In a time when many churches are seeing the decline or even the absence of a choir, we are so fortunate to have our dedicated group of singers who provide uplifting music for our traditional (10:30) services. One reason we have seen such stability (growth, actually) is that we have become more flexible to accommodate singers' schedules and other obligations. Our usual choir rehearsals are held Tuesdays, 7 – 8:00, and will begin September 11th. We also rehearse at 10:00 prior to Sunday services, and some members participate that way. The music ranges from choir anthem pieces to hymns from our hymnals. New members are enthusiastically welcomed! Part-time members are welcomed, too, if that works for you!

We also invite you to sing with our Family Choir. This group sings every 6 weeks or so, and allows folks to come up and join the choir in an old favorite hymn. We have some loyal folks who join us each time we sing. Our Men of Jerusalem offer some anthems throughout the year, and are always well-received.

As you can see, we have quite a variety of music happening at JUCC! Traditional, Contemporary, and more ... all to offer praise and thanksgiving to our God who has so blessed us.

~ Shelba Scheffner

Beginning September 9th, 2018

we will return to our

Regular Sunday Services

Two services will be held as follows:

9 AM – Contemporary Service

10:30 AM – Traditional Service



JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Every 1st Sunday of each month, we will collect a special offering called "Joyful Noise". Our children will come around with metal buckets to collect your spare change. We will also collect non-perishable food items brought to church by our congregation. 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 so others can find some joy!

Next month, a "Harvest Home" service will be held on October 4th.

Our September Joyful Noise Offering will be collected on Sunday the 2nd!





It's Palmerton Festival Time! September 7th, 8th & 9th

It's hard to believe that our annual picnic is over ~ but that can only mean one thing! It's Palmerton Festival Time! So...everyone please sharpen your favorite paring knife, dust off your largest cutting board, and find your Jerusalem UCC apron!

We Need YOU!

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sept. 4th, 2018 – 6:00 pm

Polk Township Fire Company (Rt. 209)

Please join us in starting to cut up celery, onions, parsley, potatoes and lots & lots of bread!

Wednesday, Sept. 5th, 2017 – 9:00 am to ?

More vegetable chopping!

Festival Days ~ Friday, Saturday & Sunday

September 7th, 8th, 9th

See you all at the Festival ~ PLEASE SIGN UP!

Please see Wendy Hoppel in church to sign up for a shift on the 3 days listed above or give her a call!

(H) 610-377-5946 or (M) 610-577-6772



If you love to write, journal, or just doodle, but can't seem to find the time or the peace and quiet, then this is for you!

"Write Now" – a new J'UCC group is now forming!

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13th @ 7 p.m. and will be an "information only" meeting where we will get ideas and thoughts on how you would like to move forward.

Call Mary Beth Beers @ 610-377-9779, Lorraine Weiss @ 610-826-4310 or call the church office at 610-681-4412 for more information

Everyone is welcome!

“YOUTH REASON TOGETHER”

This summer, the JUCC YRT has focused largely on service related activities, both external and internal to JUCC. In addition to volunteering with the Family Promise shelter at Jerusalem Lutheran in June, our youth also volunteered their time at the free chicken barbecue that was held in the grove on July 14th, and also participated as volunteers during our highly successful Vacation Bible School at the end of July! Both activities were a huge success, and, if I might add, the success and participation of our youth in the former, directly impacted the success and participation of our community in the latter! In August, we went to the beach in Belmar, NJ and had a wonderful day of sand, sun and fun. We are hoping to organize a trip to Knoebels before school starts up again, and get some more service activities on the calendar as well. Our next monthly "check-in" is (as always) scheduled for the last Sunday the month -- this month on September 30th, from 6-7:30PM. Pizza and drinks/snacks are always provided... come join the fellowship!

Finally -- our youth group continues to grow in numbers as more join our monthly meetings and activities -- they say "if you build it, they will come"... well call us construction workers, because we are "building" our group and our mission every day! If you (or your child) are in grades 7-12 and interested in attending an event or learning more, please reach out to me either at church, or by emailing me at juccyouthgroup@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORS

September 2 – Laura Maliszewski in memory of her husband John

September 9 – Paul & Wendy Hoppel in honor of Jillian Hessinger’s birthday August 27th, Mildred Ahner’s & Denise Goodhile’s birthdays September 10, & Sherry Yurko’s birthday September 27th

September 16 – Duane & Lisa Hawk in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary

September 23 – Lorrie & Keith Nothstein in honor of their wedding anniversary on September 19th & Jamie & Darrin Rockwell’s wedding anniversary on September 18th

September 30 – June Easterday in honor & memory of all loved ones

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE READERS

September 2 – Saralyn Sarandis

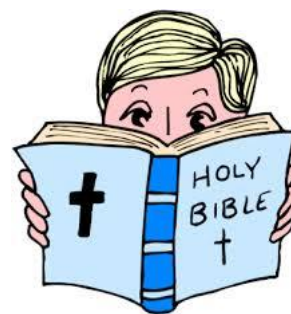
September 9 – Andrea Lazicki

September 16 – Bob Fahringer

September 23 – Ed Brader

September 30 – Matt Binder

If you would like to read scripture during our service, please contact Lyn at the office and let her know!





GREETERS ARE NEEDED for the upcoming season. If you are interested in being a greeter, please see Donna Mackes or sign up at the back of the church. Greeters welcome our congregation and all visitors between the two services and should be at the church by 10 a.m. All that's needed is a smile and perhaps a handshake!

SEPTEMBER GREETERS ARE...

September 9 - Andrea Lazicki & Donna Mackes

September 16 - Barry and Donna Mackes

September 23 - Shirley Hawk & Kim Williams

September 30 - Buzz and Carolyn Hill

**4th FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP
Wine & Cheese Campfire!**

Friday, September 28th @ 6 p.m.

*Bring your favorite beverage and snacks,
and a lawn chair! Everyone is welcome!*



MONTHLY GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Grief and Loss Support Group at JUCC will meet on **September 12th** – 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Directed by professional counselor, Sue Featro, M.E.D., E.D.D., M.S. Counseling, this group is for people experiencing grief due to trauma, loss or death. It is an effort to assist people in the surrounding community to heal and find peace.



55 & ALIVE FOR LADIES!

We will be meeting the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. September meetings will be on the **4th & 18th** @ 11:30 am. Bring a bag lunch. We'll provide coffee, tea, water or soda.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This is a brand-new ministry for our church! The purpose of the Prayer Shawl is to comfort those going through a difficult time in their life: either with their health, the loss of a loved one, or anything else that they might be dealing with. The shawls are either knitted or crocheted in rectangles of about 2 ft. by 5 feet, with the intention that it's large enough to wrap around the recipient's shoulders and let them feel the comfort of the love and care

APPLE AND FALL FEST!

JERUSALEM UCC - 545 CHURCH DRIVE

PALMERTON (TRACHSVILLE) PA

(Located 1/2 mile off 209 behind Towamensing Fire Co.)

Saturday, October 6, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In the Picnic Grove

featuring:

Music by God's House Band Plus
from noon until 3 p.m.

Chinese Auction and Meat Raffle
with drawings at 3 p.m.

homemade food, including apple dumplings,
shoo-fly pie, apple or regular sausage sandwiches,
soup, Bar-BQ, hot dogs and macaroni & cheese.

Wagon with apples, pumpkins,
and fall items for decoration.



Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the wonderful fellowship!

