

JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TRAVELER



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)

www.jerusalemucc.org / (610)-681-4412

Follow Us on Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC



OCTOBER 2020

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

Pastor: Rev. Jennika Borger conducting Sunday Services

Support Pastor: Rev. David Quinn (610) 844-6609

Church Secretary: Jillian Kuntzman

Office: (610) 681-4412

Office Hours: Tue. thru Fri. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Email: juccsecy@ptd.net

(hours subject to change)

Director of Music: Shelba Scheffner

shelba.scheffner@gmail.com

Director of Christian Ed: Marcia Heinick

mheinick@ptd.net

Treasurer: Steph Anderson

(610) 681-3878 / stephand@ptd.net

Financial Secretary: Debbie Cope (610) 681-5033

Sexton: Barry George

CHURCH CONSISTORY

President: Ed Brader

484-357-3551

braderwoodcraft@gmail.com

Vice-President: Rick Anderson

610-681-3878

Randerson@serviceteam.com

Secretary: Lorrie Nothstein

610-442-7437

loke4evr@hotmail.com

Additional Members

Barry George

Marcia Heinick

Bob Buck

Duane Hawk

Saralyn Sarandis

Jaclyn Wonderly

Kelli George

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT
OCTOBER 2020



Hello Fellow Members and Friends of JUCC,

I hope and pray you are all doing well.

As hopefully you are all aware, the starting time for our Sunday services has been moved from 9:00am to 10:30am. Weather permitting, we will continue the services from the grove. The services will be livestreamed on Facebook for those unable to attend.

All of consistory wants to thank Elise Binder and all of the facilitators, (Wendy Hoppel, Beverly Waibel, Matt Binder, Paul Rice, Kirby and Charlie LaSala, Marcia Heinick and Shelba Scheffner) for all their time and efforts toward our recent congregational small group meetings. This group recently presented their reports to consistory. This will be a valuable tool in helping consistory plan our future ministry. Thank you to all who took the time to participate in this process.

Consistory is actively meeting to continue to develop our plan for Sunday services as we approach cooler fall weather. The concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic, and the mid-October end of Pastor Kathryn's sabbatical are key issues being considered in developing our plan. The consistory is anticipating finalizing our plan in the next few weeks. We will be sending out a letter to the congregation to explain our plan going forward.

Finally, we all want to thank Pastor Jennika Borger for her generosity in leading our Sunday services since mid-July. We have greatly appreciated her messages and we all look forward to her joining us in our worship and ministry at JUCC. THANK YOU JENNIKA!

See you all Sunday morning in the grove at 10:30am. Please remember you can also listen to the service from the comfort of your car on radio station 95.5 FM. Stay Well.

Peace be with you,

Ed Brader
Consistory President

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS (August – September 2020)

As Pastor Kathryn began her sabbatical, and after discussion with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates (Penn Northeast Conference Minister), the decision was made to hold small group meetings to gather feedback from the congregation regarding the future of Jerusalem UCC. The meetings would be run by volunteers (of varying ages and a mix of men and women) who would undergo training on facilitating meetings and developing questions. The purpose of the exercise was to understand how the congregation wants to move forward. The intent is to compare this information to Pastor Kathryn's learnings during her time of self-reflection and determine whether there is a common path ahead.

Nine Facilitators volunteered to be part of this process (Shelba Scheffner, Beverly Waibel, Marcia Heinick, Charlie & Kirby LaSala, Paul Rice, Wendy Hoppel, and Matthew & Elise Binder.) Throughout the month of August and into early September, meetings were held at a variety of times and on different days of the week to accommodate schedules. Feedback was also collected by phone when requested to assure input was received from as much of the congregation as possible. A total of 97 members provided feedback. An overview of the information follows.

Question 1: What brought you to Jerusalem UCC? What keeps you coming back?

The largest pool of respondents answered that they are here because of family and consider JUCC their home church. Additionally, many mentioned coming to JUCC because people are welcoming and friendly, and they feel like they belong. The next highest response called out coming specifically because of Pastor Kathryn, followed by answers mentioning location or proximity as a key factor. Other mentions included the Contemporary service, activities / volunteering, the music, sermons, and Sunday School.

Question 2: Jerusalem UCC participates in mission work – what do you support, and what do you think is missing?

The largest response to this question was a general support for all missions and a feeling that none are missing. Beyond this were mentions of support for CACPAC, Food Drives, VBS, and the Coat Drive. Many other missions were mentioned and there was some sentiment to keep missions local.

Question 3: How do you feel about our pastor's spiritual leadership? What areas for growth / development do you see?

The leading number of responses indicated general support for Pastor Kathryn's efforts, and the next most common response referenced good messages / sermons. Personal outreach (especially in times of need) to members was called out positively, and members described

her as knowledgeable about the Bible. For areas of growth and development, leading responses pointed to a need for improved communication and a need to be more approachable. There were also mentions of a need to be less defensive and to be better at managing conflict, and to unite the congregation through more positivity. Some called out a need to work more collaboratively with the governing body.

Question 4: Considering the politically-charged climate of today, how should the pastor and congregation manage the church's role in addressing social issues like poverty, racism, and matters of social justice?

Members overwhelmingly responded that the church should keep politics out. Another significant response was that we should lead through the Bible, not personal views. The next most common response was "All are welcome here." Some members suggested giving the Biblical perspective on current events, followed by mentions of leading by example / educating / creating awareness.

Question 5: What are the biggest challenges Jerusalem UCC is facing?

The first concern mentioned was participation / membership / attendance followed closely by Covid-19. Other challenges referenced included: the absence of a pastor, money, communication, building project concerns, and division.

Question 6: Where do you hope Jerusalem UCC will be in 3 years?

Members responded that they hope JUCC will be growing & have more youth, and they hope the building project will be complete. An additional group mentioned hoping to be back inside the church with resumed activities. Also mentioned were evaluating UCC fit and showing improved communication.

A tremendous amount of information was gathered during this exercise. This overview provides only trend data and not detailed data. We appreciate all of you who took the time to participate in this valuable survey. Thank you for your support.





Christian Education News October 2020

Church services are changing to 10:30am effective Sept 27th so **Sunday School will Zoom meet at 9:30am** instead. If you want your children /grandchildren to log on for a while and then leave for church that is absolutely fine. I will no longer have packets at church for the kids who attend services. I send the Sunday School information packet out by Saturday so feel free to copy the activity sheets to take to church. If you feel strongly that you want your child to have a packet available to them at church please feel free to contact me and I will try to accommodate.

If there is any issue on getting onto Zoom due to lack of know-how or technical difficulties, please text me at 610-248-4875 and I will help as I can. If you know of any child who would benefit from the Zoom class let me know and feel free to share my contact info.

The Palmerton School District is offering free breakfasts and lunches to any child in the district ages 0-18 years, regardless of family income. If you have a child and you would like to take advantage of this offer, or you know of any family in the school district that could be helped through this program please go to Palmerton.org and look under Departments on the home page. There will be a drop-down box and click on Food Services. From there you can click on the link and give pertinent information. This generous program will go through December 2020. They really are looking to give as many breakfasts and lunches as possible whether there is a financial need or not.

Blessings to all!

Marcia Heinick

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

****Let us know if you are not getting info on this but would like to!****

Nursery (infant to pre-K): Marcia is emailing recordings of bible stories

Children (ages 5-12) Marcia is holding Sunday School on Zoom for this age group at 9:30am

Youth Group (ages 13-17): Jessie is holding YRT on Zoom the last Sunday of every month at 6:30pm

Adult Sunday School: Will resume when the church building is open

Bible Study Video/Audio Conference: Will resume at a future date



JERUSALEM UCC YRT

YRT has continued to have our monthly meetings via zoom since the pandemic began. We don't have any events planned at this point as we are continuing to watch the covid situation but we are definitely meeting. Meetings are 1 hr. and are at 6:30pm on the last Sunday of every month. Any youth entering grades 7-12 are welcome, please email Jessie for the zoom details @ juccyouthgroup@gmail.com.



Outdoor Worship
at 10:30am

COME WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH GROVE AT 10:30 AM.

We follow CDC guidelines with social distancing and face coverings required. Everyone, please bring your lawn chairs and face masks. You can remain in your car and listen to the service on 95.5 FM. The service will also be LIVE on Facebook at 10:30am. It will be recorded and available for viewing on the JUCC website for those who do not wish to attend the service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary (you can remain in your car for this service as well).

During Pastor Kathryn's sabbatical, if there is a need for an emergency requiring a pastor, please call **Rev. David Quinn at 610-844-6609**. He will be serving our members during this time of sabbatical.



For anybody not watching at home or attending our grove services, you missed the beautiful replica of our sanctuary wooden cross that Ed Brader made for our grove services. It is the same size as our cross from the sanctuary and just as beautiful. Special thanks go out to Ed Brader for his generous gift and all of his hard work!

October 4th is Holy Communion, please bring your own communion elements, none will be provided.



SPECIAL SERVICES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



October 4th – “*Harvest Home Sunday*”

October 25th – “*Reformation Sunday*”

November 1st – “*All Saints Day*”

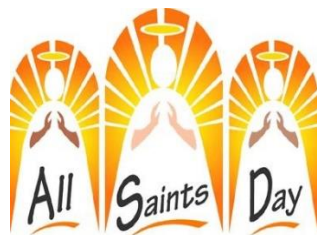
HARVEST HOME SUNDAY – October 4th

We will celebrate Harvest Home on *Sunday, October 4th*. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item. Help us celebrate God's abundance in our lives!



REFORMATION SUNDAY

JUCC Reformation Sunday, **October 25th** at 10:30 a.m. Please join us!



On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate *All Saints' Day*

Join us to celebrate the lives of all those who were connected with JUCC who have passed away since the last *All Saints' Day*

On this day, we will celebrate the lives of:

James Kindrew ~ Clair George ~ Darrell Berger

Louise Green ~ Gerald Hawk ~ Lois Beer ~ William Andrews



“...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:

Mark & Kathy Stetler	Blanche Strausberger	Tammy Held (Hawk)
Shari Jacobs	Mildred Ahner	Wanda Pettit
Joanne Millward	Susan Oswald	

Longer term prayer concerns:

Jim Buck	Kayla Johnson	Bonnie O’Brien
Dalton Fredericks	Barry Smale	Linda Mackes
Jim Fritz	Ada Frederick	Dean Serfass
Elizabeth Krause	Timothy Henning	Duane Hawk
Doug Hawk	Joanne Frable	Helen Smale
Anna Bowman	Brenda Nothstein-Bunting	
Bill & Delores Scheffner		





ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our *Annual Congregational Meeting* will take place on **Sunday, November 22nd @ 10 am.** We will vote on the proposed 2021 budget and new consistory members. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

WELCOME!! TAMMY LANDON

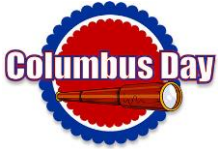
We are pleased to have **Tammy Landon** join our church as our newest member. Tammy is originally from the Walnutport area and grew up in the UCC traditions. She is married to Karl Landon and has a son Cory. Tammy comes from a family of auto racing and she enjoys making chocolates. Please welcome Tammy to our JUCC family!





SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER

October 12th



October 31st



**Cemetery Cleanup is Monday,
October 5th at 5:00 PM.**

This includes the cemeteries
on both sides of the road.

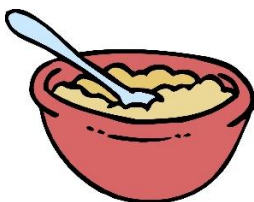
Anyone interested in helping
is welcome.



**Jerusalem UCC Trachsville Family Food Pantry
Giving Generously
at**



Our food pantry has been so blessed with the amazing support from our congregation. Once again, we're asking for your generosity. We would like to provide at least 25 families all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner. The estimated cost per family is \$35.00. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to JUCG and mark "food pantry" on the envelope. Deadline for all donations is Sunday, November 8th.



The Fall Filling Sale has been CANCELLED!!

MONTHLY GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

The Monthly Grief and Loss Support Group at JUCC meets twice a month – on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm, and the 4th Thursday at 6:30pm. **The group is presently being held on a web platform.** 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. **Please contact the church office for the link, or check for the invitation link on our Facebook page.** People are managing to find and make use of this important ministry. Thanks to God and to the members of JUCC who make it possible!



JUCC QUILTS & CRAFTS GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS!

Interested in crafting, sewing or quilting? JUCC Quilt & Crafts Group is scheduled the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **This month the group will meet on October 8th and October 22nd.** See (or call) Shelba for more info (610)704-3756. There will definitely be quilting going on, but this group also involves other crafts/classes as well, depending upon your interests. It could also just be "open sew" where everyone works on their own projects. Bring your friends and enjoy some fun and fellowship!



FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP NOT MEETING

The Family Caregiver Support Group is not currently meeting. Please watch for details on our website and Facebook page for information on when the group will resume.

This support group assists anyone who is struggling with caring for a family member. It provides them with education and fellowship to ease their caring work.

Facilitated by Jennie Serfass from Manor Care.





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, brings good news and great joy to children around the world. But the work doesn't stop there! Through the Greatest Journey, their discipleship program for those who receive shoeboxes, whole communities are being transformed by the Gospel. **Shoeboxes and Christmas items for kids should be brought to church by Sunday, November 1st** and will then go to a drop-off location for delivery. It's not necessary to wrap the shoe box but if you do the lid must be wrapped separately so it can be opened for inspection.

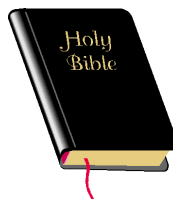
CANCELLED EVENTS

The following events have been **CANCELLED** due to Covid-19 and for the safety of all involved.

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Apple Fest – CANCELLED

Fall Bazaar – CANCELLED

****Fall Filling Sale – CANCELLED****



The JUCB Bible Study is on hold until further notice. Please watch for updates on our website and Facebook page for when the group sessions will resume.



Remember to turn back the clock!

Has your contact information changed?

If your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed please contact the church office to update your information.

610-681-4412 or juccsecy@ptd.net

REGISTER RECEIPTS

While services are being held in the grove, please continue to save your register receipts from Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheadsville, Weis Markets. Please bring the receipts each Sunday to church in the GROVE and place them on the table by the masks or give them to Lana Kuehner.

Receipts that will **NOT** be accepted include:

- Kinsley's receipts with the senior discounts, prescriptions, cigarettes, and beer, wine, lottery purchases or payouts.
- Weis Markets receipts with prescriptions, cigarettes, wine and beer, lottery purchases or payouts





We will be preparing **“holiday gift boxes”** to distribute to our shut-in’s between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will be collecting the following items to place in the baskets:

- small packs of tissues
- small containers of moisturizing lotion
- hand sanitizers
- calendars
- pre-packaged non-perishable snack items (sugar-free and regular)
- small handmade holiday decorative items
- puzzle books, etc.

We will be collecting items through **Sunday, November 15.**

**HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, SCARVES AND SOCKS
for the
“Hat and Mitten tree”**

We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to fill the tree. The “Hat and Mitten tree” will be ready to be filled with your gifts of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks by Sunday, November 1. All items will be given to the Food Pantry at the Eldred Community Center for needy children and adults living in the area served by the center. The deadline to place the items on the tree is Sunday, November 29.



NewsLetter DEADLine

If you have an article you'd like to submit for the November Newsletter please email it to Jillian, our church secretary, by **Friday, October 16, 2020**. You can contact her at 610-681-4412 or by email at juccsecy@ptd.net

Just a reminder!

Our beverage can shed is looking for your empty aluminum beverage cans. There are two deposit slots: one for crushed cans and one for uncrushed cans.



Check JUCS Facebook page or website for updates on cancellations, changes, delays or postponements.



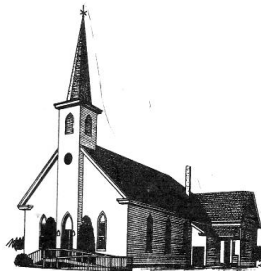
If you don't already receive "The Traveler" Newsletter by email and would like to, please send a request to juccsecy@ptd.net

*We are asking that people follow CDC and PA Health Guidelines.
Please practice social distancing and wearing of a face covering.
Check our website and Facebook pages for info.*

Do You Know?

*The JUCC sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system?
You can ask an usher for a receiver to help you to hear during the service.*

Jerusalem UCC CCLI license number 2745745



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