

# St. John's United Methodist Church



**Our Mission: That all may know Jesus and grow in God    January/February 2017**

## *Pastor's Notes:*

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the past year we have worshipped together, prayed together and worked together for the glory of God and His Kingdom. I thank you for your efforts in all we have done. I am the pastor but unable to do it without you using your gifts in ways that have helped others both physically and spiritually.

I am convinced though, that it all starts with the spiritual disciplines of our faith: prayer, the study of the Bible, gathering in small groups, fasting, etc. This is why I have been encouraging you to pray and read your Bible through the weekly bulletin insert "A New Spirit for 2016." We will continue this practice in 2017 under the heading of "A Growing Spirit for 2017," however, we will add another feature to this program. There will be occasions in which I will call for a church-wide fast (for those physically able to do so) for certain events going on within our church, community or world. Along with fasting we will also engage in more intensive prayer for that single issue during that time. The church has always believed that God does respond to sincere prayer and fasting, and he will respond to us as well.

I am grateful for all that you have accomplished in the past year. If I were to list all that we have done for the sake of Jesus, this letter would be several pages long. They really are too numerous to mention here as I want to keep this brief. But suffice it to say, St. John's is getting a reputation in the community as the church that cares enough about others to get involved and help where needed. But we must be careful, because it is easy to become "weary in well doing." The way to prevent that is to keep coming back to the Lord for strength.

So thank you once again for all you have done, but please also join me as we continue to grow in spirit in the next year and in years to come.

Peace,

Pastor Dennis

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## Understanding the Seasons

### **What is the Epiphany?**

Epiphany, or the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, was, along with Easter and Pentecost, the third chief event or holy day in the calendar of the early Christian church. Coming on January 6, it climaxes not only the twelve days of the Christmas season, but also the whole cycle of expectation and celebration which began in Advent.

Though we associate it mainly now with the visit of the three Magi, its focus is actually much broader, celebrating all ways in which the Word is made flesh and Christ's glory is made manifest. Chief among these, besides the visit of the Magi, are Christ's baptism in the Jordan and his first miracle at Cana, as well as the image of Christ as light.

Much that we now associate with the celebration of the Christmas season was originally centered around Epiphany; Christmas came into being several centuries later, mainly in western Europe.

### **What is "Ordinary Time," anyway?**

Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary! The term refers to the time between the two great feast cycles of the church: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost. The word "ordinary" is used because there is no one theme or special season observed during this time.

## United Methodist Women Year in Review

United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever gift has been received, to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

During our meetings we open with scripture and prayer, learn about the world and discuss ways to help others. We pray for our sick and all that need the Lord's help.

There are no meetings the months of January, February, May, June and August.

March 4th-Meeting with program

April 1st- HUB, everyone welcome to help. Short meeting

May- 6pm Women's banquet at Derry Presbyterian Church, 6-8 PM

July 8th-Meeting and program

September 9th- Meeting

October 1st-HUB, everyone welcome to help. No meeting

November 4th-Meeting with program

December 2nd-10AM, Christmas Fellowship, All women invited. Meeting with installation of officers for 2018.

All meetings are a Saturday at 9 AM in the social room unless noted otherwise.

The UMW prepares two special worship services: Mission Sunday in and Harvest Home in November. The UMW monies are obtained through fundraisers. In 2016 the following fundraisers raised the noted amounts:

April—Hershey Road Family Restaurant—\$500, May—Bake Sale during the HUB yard sale—\$338

July—Three-night Bake Sale at the Grantville Volunteer Fire Company Carnival- \$900.75

September-Pretzel Sandwich Sale—\$207.30, November-Harvest Home—\$1,026

Others- Donations from members of the congregation and serving meals after funerals.

In May, the women's banquet is a time for fellowship with friends and family. This is not a fundraiser or are mission monies used. The cost of the tickets pays for the banquet. We have programs four times a year during meetings. Also attend district and Susquehanna conference meetings in different parts of the district/conference.

This year, we have supported the following: House of Hope- Home for troubled teenage girls and their families, \$800.00. In the future they wish to do the same for teenage boys. This is an annual commitment.

Father's Day-Hershey chocolate bars. (we discussed doing something else, but men wanted the chocolate).

Donation to GVFC-\$ 200, Donated 6 turkeys to Jo Kuhns for the track Thanksgiving dinner.

Mission Central mortgage-\$1,000.00 from the Harvest Home Offering.

We have met our commitment of \$520 with the district UMW.

November- World Thanks Offering is money each woman saves during the year and goes directly to the district in support of Missions-Required of each district unit.

Wesley Forest-\$150 towards volleyballs, basketballs, kickballs and electronic thermometers.

Ava Kawich-\$500, Lisha Robinson-\$250, Grantville Pantry-\$500 for a family that needed their van repaired

Other expenses, speakers- February and November, \$50 each.

God for Girls ( teenage ) and summer camps when requested.

UMW wishes to THANK everyone that helped us through the year by baking, giving donations, helping with projects and prayers. The numbers show we could not do "good Works" with out your support!!

We invite women of all ages to join us. We need to grow in members, strength, and commitment to serve God through our good works. If you are unable to attend meetings but wish to help in 2017, please contact Nancy Allen.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Allen, President



Kathy Alexander Laura Anspach Janet Bates  
 Faye Blanshine Luke Ellenberger  
 Ava Kawich & Family Mike Kenney Renae Kline  
 Rochelle Kleinfelder Melvin Lubold Ed Macko Brad  
 Morrissey Charlotte Noll Sam

Dolores Oldham Easton Pevarnik  
 Lonnie Phillips Lisha Robertson Larry Shaffer

Starr Seguinot Albert Shirk Ken Smith

Barb Spitler Cody Spitler  
 Joann Stauffer Gene & Linda Stum Ellis Sult

Donna Tardy Jennifer Weaver  
 Ginny Whitehaus Barbara Wolf John Zart  
 Kate Heckman Marion Walmer

**Military:** Those serving home and abroad and their families. **Other:** Our church, as we reach out to children & youth, Our Nation, Our brothers and sisters in Christ in Grantville and around the world, Victims of shootings & our police everywhere who protect us

Family of Pat Koch Alex Adams  
 Nick Heimbach Jasmine Neal & Family  
 Mallory Anspach Family of Robert Buchter

## You Can Make A Difference

During the month of January we will be collecting the following:

Food Pantry--small bottles of ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise

Hub--12-16 oz liquid (No sprays) household cleaner (that can be mixed with water) and re-sealable sandwich-sized plastic bags

During the month of February we will be collecting the following:

Food Pantry--shampoo, deodorant, disposable men's and women's razors

Hub--7-8" plastic combs , fingernail clippers or metal nail files

## Hershey Road Family Restaurant Update

After the 7:45 service, a group of us go to HRFR for breakfast. They have a donation program that gives the us 10% of our total bill to give to our church.

For 2016 HRFR has given St. John's \$1,850.00 !!!  
 Just to clarify- you do the math, you will know that they give us WAY more than the 10%.

Please, when you go to the restaurant, let them know you are from St. John's and thank Jackie and Scott Levy, co-owners and son Jack for their kindness to St. John's.

## Feast In Praise

Here are a couple of appetizer or "snack-type" foods to munch on while watching a football game or serve when friends drop by. The first is for a yummy cheese spread. I got this recipe from a good friend and co-worker of my years ago. She brought it to a work staff get-together once and after that people often requested it.

### DENISE'S CHEESE SPREAD

1 cup mayonnaise  
 1 cup grated Swiss cheese  
 8 ounces softened cream cheese  
 Some chopped scallions

Mix the mayonnaise and cheeses together, sprinkle the scallions on top and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Spread on crackers of your choice.

The next recipe comes from a very long time friend of mine. The two of us grew up in Ringtown and attended all twelve grades of school together. I went to visit her when we were all grown up and she served these delicious appetizers.

### OLIVE APPETIZERS

¼ pound grated cheddar cheese  
 ¼ cup butter  
 ¾ cup flour

Blend these ingredients in a food processor.

1 8 ounce jar olives, drained and dried

Wrap each olive in the cheesy dough and roll in sesame seeds. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Lorna Jewby

You've heard Pastor Dennis and Carol's testimonial and it's amazing what they've done to become debt free. How did they learn the tools to do it? From Financial Peace University! You can do it too!



*Financial Peace University* is coming to St. John's in February 2017!!! Millions of people have gone through *Financial Peace University*, including 18 people from right here at St. John's. We've worked a plan, rewritten our stories, and changed our futures. St. John's first graduating class was very successful. In less than three months, we saved an extra \$11,900, paid off \$23,439 in debt and closed out 18 credit cards. If we did this in nine short weeks, think of what you can do for the rest of your lives!

Pastor Dennis and Carol's story is just one of millions of success stories and you can be successful too. This class meets for nine weeks, one night a week (probably on Monday nights). It incorporates small-group discussions that encourage accountability and discipleship. *Financial Peace University* teaches members how to handle money God's ways, and His ways work!

Only you can make this happen. If you are interested in joining our next class, please contact Donna Eycler at [va2pa@comcast.net](mailto:va2pa@comcast.net) or (717) 602-9962 or contact Pastor Dennis. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months about *Financial Peace University* classes and how they work, how to register, how to obtain class materials and the cost of

## *A Note of Thanks*

We would like to express our thanks for all that you, our church family, have done for us this year. We can never truly express how thankful we are for each one of you. You inspire us, help us, encourage us, support us in so many ways. It was a pleasure to recently share our joy of having a new grandson with you. And we also shared the joy of getting a new puppy with you because you were caring and understanding when we had to put our other dogs down. This is what families do, whether they are blood-related or are brothers and sisters in Christ.

We also would like to share a couple of things with you since this has been a crazy election year and now we are on the horizon of a new year with a new president. Please read the following story and reflect on it:

*"A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, his little girl returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together." As they say, "out of the mouths of babes". It is our prayer that we can all get "Jesus back where He belongs" so our country can come together and work together again.*

We would like to close with this prayer that we found:

*"Mighty God, though wars still rage and problems still abound, we Christians are unique in this world, for we have Hope. May Hope carry us, may Hope help us see beyond the problems of this life, and may the Hope that came at Christmas grant us peace in this crazy world. For we trust in the power of our Mighty God. Amen."*

May God richly bless each of you in the new year and beyond.

Pastor Dennis and Carol