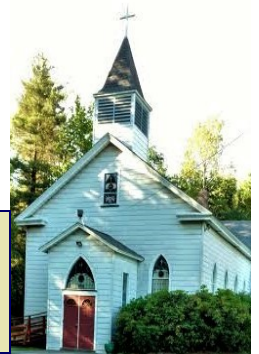




SALEM UCC NEWSLETTER

108 Church Street-PO BOX 1047
Pocono Pines, PA 18350



***No Matter Where You are in Your Journey,
You are Welcome Here!***

EVENTS

Men's Breakfast Jubilee

Aug. 12 at 8:30 am

Women's Coffee

Mountain Top Lodge
Aug. 12 at 9:00 am

Pastor's Vacation July 23 to August 6

PPIC Interfaith Family Picnic

Blanche Price Park
August 13th
4:00 to 7:30

What God Really Thinks About Women

Bible Study

Location-TBA
Starts Tuesday
August 22
From 1:00 to 2:30

*I invite you to check
out the website*

<www.3greatloves.org>

*and click on "What
is Your Story?" and
read what I shared
about the work we
are doing at Salem.
-Pastor Mike*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As you know Debbie and I were among the 3,000 or so people from across the country and around the world who gathered in Baltimore for the 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ. It was a memorable experience, with inspiring worship, excellent preaching, and wonderful speakers. During the synod 15 resolutions were considered, some were dealt with rather quickly and with little debate, while others were acted on only after passionate debate from delegates on both sides of the issue.

While the schedule was busy, time was still available for activities outside of the convention center. On Sunday, I participated in the "Injustice Walk." The Injustice Walk was an opportunity to walk the streets and to see and to hear firsthand the injustices being done to the homeless. Our guide as we walked the streets was Jeff, who reminded us that the homeless were God's children made in God's image just like us, and they deserved the same dignity we expected. Jeff demonstrated "*chesed*", a boundless loving kindness. It was clear that Jeff loves the city of Baltimore, knows its history, and weeps for those he cares for who are the victims of Baltimore's urban renewal.



During Monday's lunch break I joined 275 other delegates and visitors supporting the family of Guillermo Recinos Morales in urging the ICE chief counsel to reopen the Morales case so he can apply for asylum and remain with his wife, children and grandchildren in his Annapolis community. We started at the Baltimore Convention Center and headed to the Baltimore ICE headquarters a few blocks away for a vigil and prayer service where we were reminded of the words of scripture; "*The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*"

Three Great Loves Initiative

In his address to the Synod, General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer introduced the *Three Great Loves* initiative. Three Great Loves seeks to build on the sacred work we are already doing in community caring for children, reaching out in welcome to our neighbors, and acting as good stewards of the earth and all creation. Dorhauer asked us to explore new ways to embrace our commitments with a clear intent and shared purpose in a dedicated call to action over the next two years.

Continued on page 9

Table of Contents	
Spiritual Formation	2
The Way of Jesus	3
Church Committees	4
Contact Information	5
Consistory Members	5
Consistory Minutes	6
Social Opportunities	7
Synod Pictures	8
Pastor's Desk Cont.	9
Jump Start Your Daily Devotions	10
Sunday Scripture Readings	10

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY STUDY GROUP

The four Wednesdays in September at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at Salem United Church of Christ we will delve into the realities of poverty. I used the works of Ruby Payne and the Aha! Process, Inc., including *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* and *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty* as my resources.

To help move us beyond a cursory understanding of living in poverty and its issues we will focus on the myths surrounding poverty. We will touch on how the availability of resources impacts learning and daily life. Also the differences between classes and generational and situational poverty will be discussed along with some positive baby steps we can take to make an impact.

-Pastor Mike

SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH MISS LYNNE



**COME JOIN THE FUN AND
MEET NEW FRIENDS!**

GOD'S LOVE FOR US

**What better topic to add to our
lessons about the Book of Acts
and the Parables of Jesus!**

Spiritual Formation information
continued on page 10

What God Really Thinks About Women

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Led by Fran Jamison and Debbie Lonergan

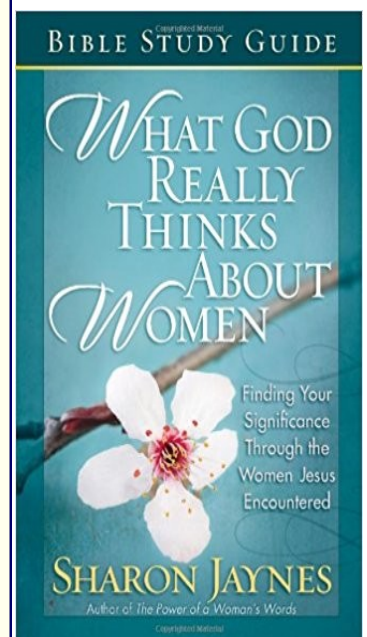
Starts Tuesday, August 22nd from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

We will study about the amazing women Jesus encountered and how he touched their lives. The Study guide allows us to choose from a plethora of discussion questions.

**Each lesson is self-contained so you can attend
one session or all twelve sessions.**

Consider joining us to learn about the strong women of Jesus' time and how their encounters with Jesus enriched their lives and how it can enrich ours.

Come and discover how amazing God made us!



THE WAY OF JESUS

REACHING OUT TO THOSE UNLIKE OURSELVES

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU WERE ON A SCAVENGER HUNT OR TOASTED MARSHMALLOWS WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS? WELL WAIT NO LONGER!

Come to Blanche Price Park August 13th from 4:00-7:30pm to join in the fun.

Pocono Pines Interfaith Community's First Annual Vegetarian Potluck Family Picnic is open to all.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors!

DUE TO DIETARY RESTRICTIONS POTLUCK DISHES MUST BE VEGETARIAN AND CONTAIN NO ALCOHOL

Cold water will be provided

Other drinks are part of the potluck

RSVP: pastor.mike.lonergan@gmail.com

ENRICH OUR LIVES BY HELPING OTHERS

TEC

Did you think your school days were over? Think again!

Tobyhanna Elementary Center can use volunteers!

Contact Pastor Mike and request information on how you can use your skills to help the children of our area.

HOSPITALITY

The image of Lil Judge in the kitchen smiling and puttering away leaves us with a great image of hospitality. It also leaves us with very large shoes to fill. We cannot thank Lil enough for her grace while serving us.

NOW WE NEED TO TAKE THE BATON...

The fellowship after Sunday services at Salem surpasses many other churches. Unfortunately we do not have Lil to set up and clean up any longer. We also don't have the Jetson's Rosie the Robot who will do those duties.

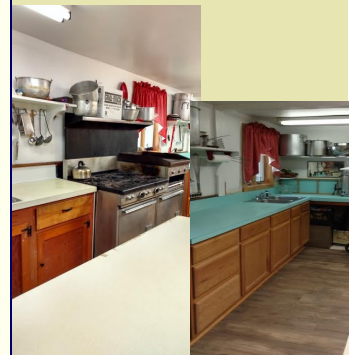
GET A PARTNER...MAKE IT FUN

Please consider getting a partner and signing up for set up and clean up. We have a seasonal congregation so we must have a flexible schedule, but at the same time we must continue to offer that great Salem hospitality each Sunday.

CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR SIGN UP SHEETS

"Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give."

— [Steve Goodier](#)



CHURCH COMMITTEES

Each month I will feature one of our church committees and give a detailed description of their duties. This month I am featuring a new concept—Hospitality Committee (formerly Lil Judge).

It is easy to attend church functions and not think about the logistics involved in the set up and take down at these events. Now is the time to start considering how we can step up and become a more active participant in these events.

Working as a team will ensure coverage and make it fun.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

KITCHEN

-Set Up/Clean Up Coffee Before/After Functions

-Set Up/Clean Up Serving table

-Napkins, plates, cups, etc

-Set Food Out Before People Arrive

-Wipe Tables/Chairs as Needed

-Clean up Kitchen-wash and return all towels, etc.

Check the detailed list of duties located in the kitchen.

CHURCH PLANNING MEETING NOTES

July 13, 2017

7-13-17

Those attending Thursday night's future planning meeting participated in a lively discussion concerning the future role of Salem in the community. A night of definitions and proposals, we discussed our Mission Statement, and attempted to define "Vibrant Worship" and "Community Involvement". Along with all the positives of life at Salem we discussed the problems, including the gaps in communication.

Our website < www.salemunitedchurchofchrist.org > [especially the Bulletin Board] and our Facebook page < Salem UCC Pocono Pines PA > are on-line opportunities to stay in touch with what is going on at Salem. In this issue of the newsletter you will find the pictures of all the Consistory members, you can ask any of them what is happening or share an idea you may have in mind.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Michael Lonergan

Email: pastor.mike.lonergan@gmail.com

Pastor's Home Office:

- 570-355-5397



*Start by doing
what's
necessary, then
what's possible;
and
suddenly you are
doing the
impossible.*

*Saint Francis of
Assisi*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone:

570-643-1411

Church e-mail:

salemucc1411@hotmail.com

Church Website:

www.salemunitedchurchofchrist.org

CONSISTORY



Dave Sleightholm
President



Don Howarth

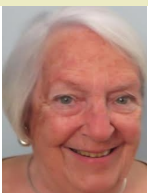


Bob Baechtold



Bill Andrews

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR CONSISTORY



Carol Kehler



Donna Knecht



John Lyman



Fran Jamison

CONSISTORY MINUTES

UCC CONSISTORY MEETING

June 18, 2017

Author: John Lyman

In attendance:

Dave Sleightholm, Donna Knecht, Fran Jamison, Don Howarth, Bill Andrews
Bob Baechtold, Mike Lonergan, John Lyman

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 8:30 am.

1. May minutes approved
2. Finance review: Overall, giving is on schedule and it has been a good year
Don will add a sentence in the weekly bulletin which indicates the “last week’s giving” instead of posting it at the front of the church.
3. AED: Mike is looking into buying one. There may be some grant money possible, maybe from St. Luke’s.
4. Audiovisual people were in on 16 June. Some details:
 - a. Primary company is Audiobahn
 - b. Full System is proposed
 - c. About \$11,000
 - d. Consistory voted unanimously to install new system
 - e. Bill will speak to the congregation
5. Management of the ushers: Don H. will talk to Don Jones to make certain he is still comfortable doing it since Rosalind is ill
6. June 15 planning meeting: Mike summarized results. Highlights:
 - a. We want to develop a worship team
 - b. Church needs a mission statement
 - c. We may want to consider a newsletter
 - d. Next meeting is 13 July
7. The church has several projects ongoing or suggested, all of which are going well. currently the 3 projects under discussion:
 - a. The AV system (see item 4)
 - b. Repairing the chimes
 - c. Considering what actions and when to replace Fellowship ceiling
8. Action items:
 - a. Don will add something to the weekly bulletin about the “last week’s giving”
 - b. Mike will pursue the AED
 - c. Bill will talk to the congregation about the AV equipment
 - d. Don H. will talk to Don Jones about management of the ushers

Next meeting is 8:30 am July 16, 2017

Meeting Adjourned

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY ONE IS WELCOME

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Meet the Men of Salem at the Jubilee every 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30. Enjoy great conversation over a hearty breakfast.



WOMEN OF SALEM

Come indulge yourself at Mountain Top Lodge with great food and even better conversation. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00.

THURSDAY IS PIZZA NIGHT!

Let Dominic's do the cooking on Thursday night! Join fellow church members in an extremely relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other better.

Dominic's is located at 584 PA-940, Pocono Lake, PA 18347



WHAT IS YOUR IDEA FOR A GET TOGETHER?

Talk it up, don't be shy anyone can start a new tradition!
Let me know and I will post it in the Newsletter.

SYNOD PICTURES



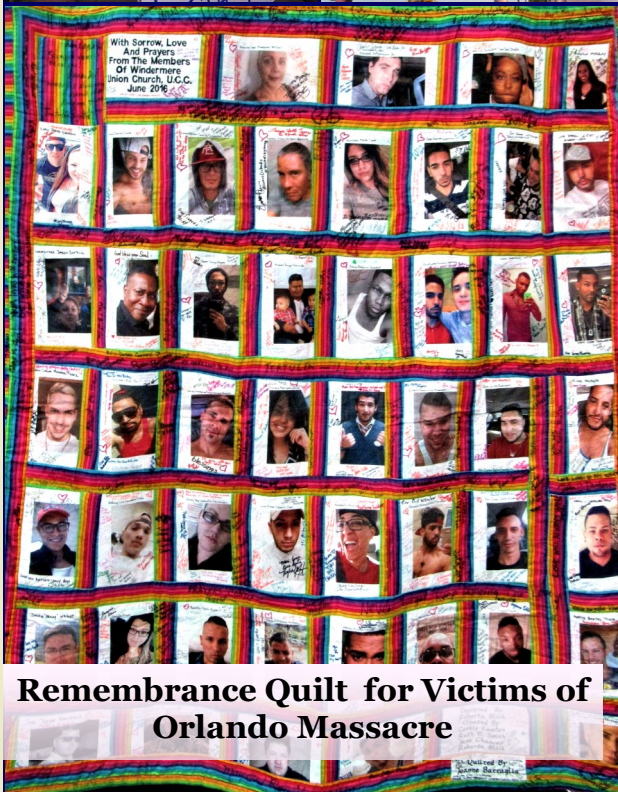
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



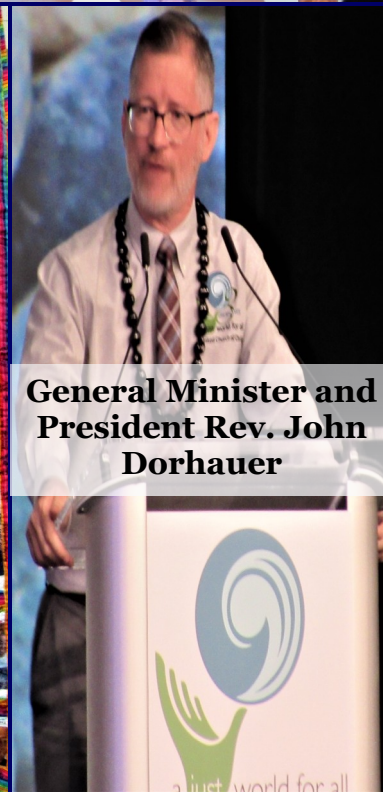
**Pastor Mike
March on ICE**



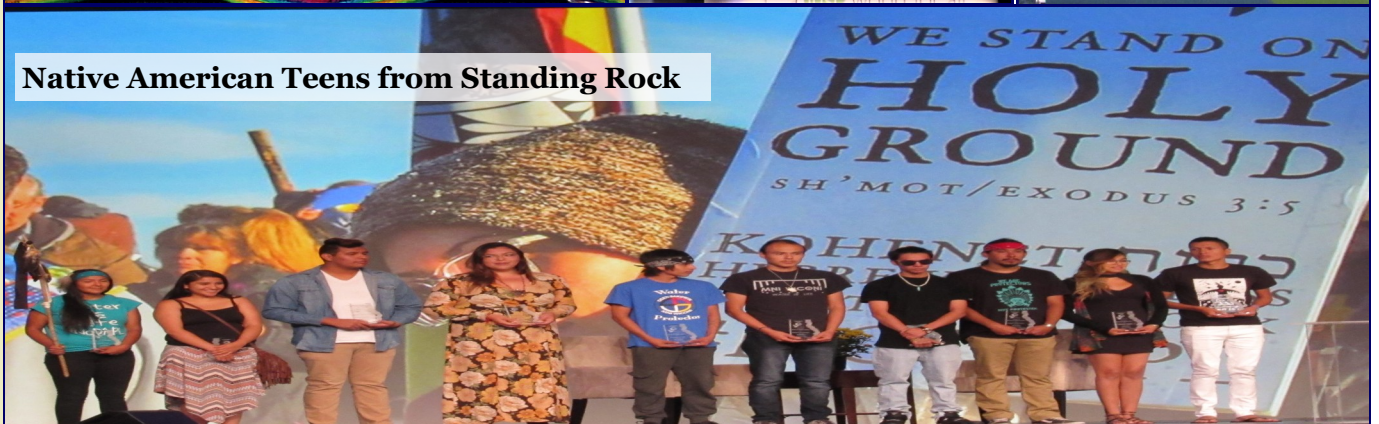
Worship Service



**Remembrance Quilt for Victims of
Orlando Massacre**



**General Minister and
President Rev. John
Dorhauer**



Native American Teens from Standing Rock

PASTOR'S DESK continued from cover

All the churches have been invited to participate in three denomination wide initiatives, in the winter of 2017, a denomination-wide drive to provide basic human needs items to shelters housing refugees or the homeless; next fall 2018, there will be a denomination-wide school supplies drive to address inequalities in our education systems, and at Synod in 2019, a sponsored 5K walk to raise money and awareness for the earth.

In our planning meeting on July 13th we talked about how our congregation already demonstrates love of children and love of neighbor and how we can build on what is already taking place. We also discussed opportunities to demonstrate our love of creation. **What do you think**, in what ways can we demonstrate our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children and Love of Creation? I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Finally, the national setting has created a website, www.3greatloves.org, where congregations can share their stories of demonstrating the Three Great Loves. **I invite you to check out the website and click on "What is Your Story?" and read what I shared about the work we are doing at Salem.**-Pastor Mike

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEWS

Introducing: The Rev. Dr. Bonnie L. Bates

The Penn Northeast Conference Board of Directors, at the June 8, 2017, meeting appointed the Rev. Dr. Bonnie L. Bates, to the position of *Designated-Term* Conference Minister, beginning September 1, 2017.

Rev. Bates comes to us very highly recommended from her references: as a person of deep faith, having great organizational skills, being a wise, prophetic leader, and having a passion and enthusiasm for pastoral leadership, along with a healthy sense of humor, and a great singing voice.

Bonnie is married, the mother of a son, and the grandmother of three.

We look forward to her leadership among us as we discern together where our Still Speaking God is leading us and challenging us to be and to become.

A brief explanation of the position title "*Designated-Term*." This term indicates the intent of our Board for leadership in the next 3 years which addresses many transformational issues. Why only 3 years? The work of the Transition Team which has been meeting for the past year or so to study the possibilities of a merger with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference has anticipated that it will take the better part of 3 years to make any recommendation to merge. We needed to appoint a leader for this specific period of time, with this specific responsibility, in addition to all the other duties and responsibilities of being our Conference Minister.

Please feel free to contact me with specific questions. Thank you for your support. We are in this business of *being church* together. [emphasis added]

Barbara Hanks, Moderator bjhkatz@aol.com cell# 610-731-4313 June 19, 2017



SPIRITUAL FORMATION



JUMP START FOR YOUR DAILY DEVOTION TIME

Below is an example of a Monday Devotion from the UCC website:

< http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional>.

It only take a few moments to read and the pastors insights are each unique.

You might even consider having a small group on line, this makes it much more flexible. Every Monday the UCC daily devotion offers a Small Group Discussion Guide and you could use it with friends and share you thoughts when it's convenient for each of you.

I Love Your Law

"My soul keeps your decrees, I love them exceedingly." - Psalm 119:167

July 3, 2017 Written by Talitha Arnold

Discussion Questions:

- How have you experienced God's "liberating law?"
- What freedoms might you be willing to give up to follow God's law?
- What makes a law unjust? How should a Christian respond to such laws?

READ PSALM 119:161-168

On this Eve of Independence Day and its celebration of freedom, today's Psalm instead praises a restriction on freedom, i.e. God's law. "I love your law," the Psalmist sings. "Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances." He promises to fulfill God's commandments, precepts, and decrees.

The Psalmist gives up some of his individual freedom, but finds the freedom of being in right relationship with God and others. "Great peace have those who love your law," the Psalmist affirms. "Nothing can make them

stumble."

For the Jews, the giving of the law on Sinai was as liberating an event as the parting of the sea or manna in the wilderness. The law guided them like the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day.

Not even kings were above the law. When those like David or Ahab thought otherwise, God sent prophets like Nathan and Elijah to remind them.

To be sure, not all laws are just. For the Psalmist's "great peace," our human laws need God's law as the plumb line.

Yet unjust laws don't negate the need for the rule of law. Law provides structure, and at its best, justice for all. In "America the Beautiful," Katherine Lee Bates asked God to "confirm our soul in self-control, our liberty in law." The composer of Psalm 119 would agree with her vision.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your liberating gift of the law. Confirm the soul of our nation in self-control, our liberty in law. Amen.

Sunday Scripture Readings for the Month

August 6

**Ps 145:8-9, 14-21
Matt 14: 13-21**

August 13

**Gen 37:1-4, 12-28
Matt 14: 22-33**

August 20

**Gen 45:1-15
Matt 15:21-28**

August 27

**Matt 16:13-20
Romans 12:1-8**



Debbie Lonergan-Newsletter Contact
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