



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
Sept. 9 at 8:30 am

Women's Coffee
Mountain Top Lodge
Sept. 9 at 9:00 am

***What God Really
Thinks About
Women***

Bible Study
Church Hall
Tuesday Afternoons
Until Nov. 21st
From 1:00 to 2:30

***Understanding
Poverty Study***
Church
Wednesday 6:00 pm
Sept 6

Sept 13
Sept 20
Sept 27

Movie in the Park
Blanche Price Park
Dusk
September 8

Fall Festival
Blanche Price Park
Noon to 4:30
October 7

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." Those words are as true today as they were when he included them in a sermon in 1963. When we gathered for our Interfaith Picnic at Blanche Price Park the flame of a solitary candle resting on the fireplace mantle provided God's light to the approximately 60 people who gathered to share food and fellowship.

God's light was with us that day in the park as we built relationships and made new friends with faiths. God's light will also and speak out against wherever we find it. Our resist hate will continue. In have the dates for our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and other events where we can let God's light shine.



Please be in prayer for the officers in our national setting and their many partners as they lead the effort to ensure that love defeats hate. Each of us has the opportunity to assist in their work by supporting the Neighbors in Need offering being taken on October 1. This offering supports the work around the country of Justice and Witness Ministries and the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network. The newsletter includes an article with more Information about the Neighbors in Need Offering.

NEW A/V SYSTEM

On August 20th we enjoyed our new audio/video system. Over the next few months I will be exploring ways to utilize the system to enhance our worship services and other forms of ministry that we are or could be offering. A sermon series on the music of U2 may be on the horizon. If you have ideas I would love to hear them.

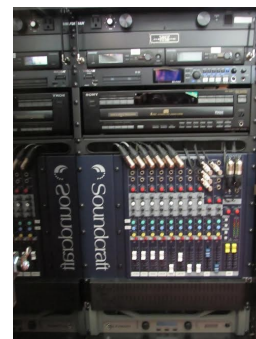


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SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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

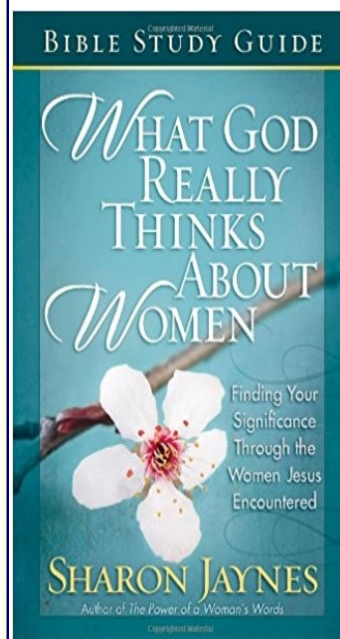
Starts Tuesday, August 22nd from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

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!



BEING THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

This can be as simple as reaching out to someone you don't normally speak to within an organization in which you are involved.

Step out and take a class or *give* a class.

There has been much talk about the lack of knowledge about our Civic responsibilities as citizens. Perhaps you or you and a friend could offer a Civics Refresher course.

Do you have a skill you can share with others? Are you handy around the house with organizing, cleaning or making small repairs?

Notice who you spend your time with each week. Perhaps you can expand your acquaintances and learn something new in the process.



ENRICH OUR LIVES BY HELPING OTHERS

TEC

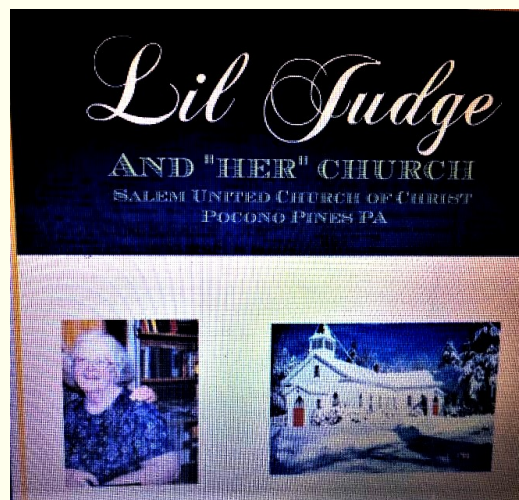
Did you think your school days were over? Think again!

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. As a small token of our gratitude for her many years of service, Kathy Averil assembled a Scrapbook for Lil.



*I shall pass
through this
world but
once. Any
good thing
therefore that
I can do, or
any kindness
that I can
show to any
human being,
let me do it
now. Let me
not defer it or
neglect it, for
I shall not
pass this way
again.*

**Henry
Drummond**



COMMITTEES

This month's featured Committee is the WOMEN'S GUILD.

- 90% of the fundraising that is done for the church is done by the Women's Guild.
- We have our own bank account and Lisa Erlsten is the Treasurer.
- The money that is raised is used to buy all the paper products for the church as well as the cleaning products.
- We help with problems in the church if there is a need. Giving money for the roof, for the paint, and anything that is needed for the church.
- Special Social hours we pay for the cake or whatever is needed for that.
- The monies are raised from the Election Day Suppers and Memorial Day Parade.

2017 NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need offering will take place on Sunday, **October 1st**. This supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local & national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also support our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM (Council for American Indian Ministries).

Please Give Generously! Contribute online at anytime <www.ucc.org/nin>



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Michael Lonergan

Email: pastor.mike.lonergan@gmail.com

Pastor's Home Office:

- 570-355-5397



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone:

570-643-1411

Church e-mail:

salemucc1411@hotmail.com

Church Website:

www.salemunitedchurchofchrist.org

**I will stand at my
watchpost to see
what the LORD
will say.
Then the LORD
answered and
said, "Write the
vision; make it
plain
so a runner may
read it. For there
is still a vision."**

Habakkuk 2:1-3

CONSISTORY



Dave Sleightholm
President



Don Howarth

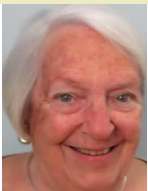


Bob Baechtold



Bill Andrews

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR CONSISTORY



Carol Kehler



Donna Knecht



Fran Jamison



John Lyman



Lois Hill

CONSISTORY MINUTES

July 2017 Minutes

Author: John Lyman

In attendance:

Consistory members:

Dave Sleightholm

Carol Kehler

Don Howarth

Bob Baechtold

Mike Lonergan

John Lyman

Guests:

Paula Guenst

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 8:30 am.

June minutes approved.

Update on the postcards: Unfortunately we have determined that the postcards are not the proper size for the Post Office and they have to be redone. Dave Sleightholm will work with Jacob Judge to redo the cards as required by the Post Office.

Policy manual: Paula will update the policy manual and do a copy on a CD or thumb drive.

Finance review: Overall, giving is on schedule.

ADA ramp at the front of the church: the sanctuary access is very difficult for a wheelchair. However there is no simple solutions since it is the doorways that complicate it. Bob will talk to Bill Dyer about considering a redesign.

Update: before the service John and Bill looked at the handicap access and decided the least expensive way of improving it would be to change the doors leading into the sanctuary. Currently there is a set of double doors. If both those doors were removed and a single door with a left hinge installed, it would be easier to use the handicap ramp. This would not be ADA compliant but it would improve the overall situation.

Consistory membership: several church members will be approached about joining the consistory.

Thursday night planning session: The next session potentially could be the most difficult since the goals and objectives developed at last Thursday meeting must be put into action. It will be on a Sunday right after church. Mike will ask Debbie to put the information into the newsletter.

John will add the consistory minutes to the newsletter.

The church may benefit from discarding various old materials. There are several boxes of outdated and obsolete items just sitting around.

Next meeting is 8:30 AM, August 20, 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 to Mountain Top Lodge and treat yourself to 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.

THANK YOU KNECHT FAMILY

Miss Lynne wants to send out a BIG thank you to the Knecht family for removing the old piano from the Sunday School area. It expanded the play area for the children. With summer visitors the move came just in time.

Thank You Knecht Family for the many things you do behind the scenes!



BREAKING BREAD



FIRST ANNUAL POCONO PINES INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PICNIC



SOME OF OUR OWN IN THE NEWS!



Clymer Library Committee:
Trudi Denlinger, Missy Pappa,
Carol Kehler, Peggy Witt



**Hackenberg, Erlsten and
Fisher Family-the Ice
Harvesting Industry Marker**



**Hoffman Family-the Forest
Products Industry Marker**

PASTORAL LETTER FROM UCC NATIONAL OFFICERS

In a response to the violent clashes between white supremacists and counter demonstrators in Charlottesville, VA , on August 12th, that left one woman dead and 19 injured, the national leadership of the United Church of Christ issued the following Pastoral Letter. I felt it was important to share the entire letter with you. Pastor Mike

UCC Pastoral Letter condemns racist violence in Charlottesville, demands equality for all

August 15, 2017

Last weekend, a group of white supremacists came to Charlottesville, Virginia, and incited violence to protest the removal of a Confederate monument. Although protest is the bedrock of our nation's democracy, coming in riot gear proves that they intended to do more than simply protest.

We, the Council of Conference Ministers and Officers of the United Church of Christ, strongly condemn the acts of violent hatred expressed by these white supremacists, Neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members. Their white robes and burning crosses were replaced with polo shirts, khakis, and tiki torches, while their lynching was replaced with a speeding car barreling through a group of peaceful protesters with the intention of harming and killing others, which it did. Their vitriolic hatred is the same.

We confess that the events of Charlottesville are systemic and communal expressions of white privilege and racism that continues to pervade our nation's spiritual ethos. And if we only condemn the acts of August 12, 2017, without condemning the roots of racism, which perpetuate discrimination in our American schools, justice system, business, and healthcare systems, then we have sinned as well. We must work toward the Kin-dom of Heaven here on earth now for the sake of a just world for all.

We do this by committing to follow the ways of Jesus, who stood with the oppressed, spoke out against political and religious powers, and courageously embodied a just world for all as he sought to create it. Today, we must follow the ways of Jesus in addressing the hatred of white supremacists and racists among us.

Our local UCC churches must be true solidarity partners with those who march in the streets. Our UCC churches are encouraged to move from the sanctuary and walk alongside other clergy and community leaders who seek to resist, agitate, inform, and comfort. We must resist hatred and violence. We must also agitate ourselves, and our neighbors to acknowledge any racism within or among us. We must inform ourselves, and our neighbors what our sacred stories reveal to us of a just world for all. We must lament and grieve with those who are injured or murdered during violent confrontations with those who mean us harm. And we must comfort those who have been discriminated against with the transformative love of God. As we go forward, let us model the legacy of activism through our sacred call given to us by our UCC ancestors: May we be prophetic truth-tellers like our Congregational Christian forebearers, who marched in public squares demanding equality for all. May we serve others, and remain faithful witnesses like our Evangelical and Reformed forebearers, who tended to the needs of the forgotten. And may we be courageous like our non-UCC forebearers, who left their spiritual home and joined the UCC in order to fully live out who God created them to be.

In the days to come, may God's truth, mission, and courage be our guide to embodying the Kin-dom of Heaven here on earth.



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.

Every Monday the UCC daily devotion offers a Small Group Discussion Guide and you could share you thoughts on-line with friends when it's convenient for each of you.

Next month I will start listing your suggestions for devotions that you use. I will also list books that you feel were helpful in your Spiritual Journey.

No Condemnation Matt Laney

August 14, 2017 **READ LUKE 11: 5-13**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does this devotion's portrayal of God strike you?
- Is it similar to or different from what you grew up with?
- When was the last time you fervently begged God to hear your prayer?
- What would such a prayer be for you today?

NO CONDEMNATION

If your child asks for a fish, do you give a snake instead?" - Luke 11:11

A woman's son committed suicide following decades of hard living that caused deep pain to himself and others. According to the woman's religious upbringing, she was sure her son was in hell because of the way he lived and died. Yet the idea of her son's suffering continuing for eternity was unbearable. She went to her pastor for help.

The pastor listened carefully as the woman poured out her broken and grieving heart. Then the pastor said, "I want you to close your eyes and imagine your son, having

passed from this life and standing before the throne of God. As he stands there his whole life is on display. All of the terrible things he did, all of the harm he caused is laid bare. Can you picture that?"

"Yes" said the distraught mother.

The pastor went on. "Now imagine yourself standing beside God as you both look upon your son. How do you feel?"

"Scared," said the woman. "I'm afraid of what God will do."

The pastor asked, "What do you want to do?"

She said, "I want to rush forward and put my arms around my son!"

The pastor said, "You wouldn't get there fast enough because God would have already embraced him with tears streaming down God's face, whispering, "Welcome home, my son. Welcome home."

If fallible human beings would not condemn their children to eternal suffering, even those who have caused great harm, would God do any less for Her children?

Prayer: Praise to you, grieving and forgiving Mother of all humanity. Amen

Sunday Scripture Readings for the Month

September 3

Matt 16:21-28

Rom 12: 9-21

September 10

Rom 13: 8-14

Ex 12: 1-14

September 17

Rom 13:1-12

Ex 14: 19-31



Debbie Lonergan-Newsletter Contact
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September 24

Matt 20: 1-16

Ex 16: 2-15