

Victorian Luncheon/Tea



Join us on Sunday, April 21st, for our second Victorian Luncheon and Tea. It will be a lovely step back in time, an experience filled with beauty, charm, and fellowship. A full lunch topped off with a variety of teas and desserts, a program on Victorian Plants and Flowers, and an adorable craft will round out our afternoon. Although teacups will be available, you are welcome to bring your favorite. Hats would be lovely, too!

Time: 12:15 – 3:00 p.m. Place: St. John's UCC – Fraunfelder Hall

Ticket Price: Adults - \$25 Children - \$12

Tickets are on sale in the DeRemer Gallery after each service or contact Cindy DeLuca at 610-360-2323.

Inviting Women of all ages!

Come celebrate the kick off of our monthly themed **Grace and Power Hours!!** Christian women are faced with many stressors every day!

We are expected to be an awesome wife/partner/friend, great mom/family member, wonderful caretaker, successful professional, church & community involved leader, and example of an exceptional Godly woman. All the while juggling these and trying to balance it perfectly with a smile on the outside, and inside, feeling physically drained, spiritually broken, stagnant, unloved, and lonely. Hardly the Virtuous Woman as in Proverbs 31.

These gatherings will help each of us find encouragement, and cultivate a deep, ever-evolving personal relationship with others and our Lord, which will bring a refreshing and powerful renewal in your life. Releasing new spiritual purpose and possibilities, in Jesus' name. As you thrive, we all thrive! We all come from different backgrounds and can share experiences and foster a sense of belonging which can be transformative, as it allows all to feel seen, heard, and understood.

We'll address specific issues and challenges that women face in their daily lives. Whether it's work-life balance, managing relationships, loneliness, health and well-being to name a few. These will create opportunities for personal growth and spiritual development in addition to finding support for unique struggles.

So if you are feeling a need for more fellowship, laughter, positive encouragement, please come as we learn how God can make all things new. You will come away refreshed and renewed.

To learn more please JOIN us on:

Sunday, April 14, 2024 - 12– 1 p.m. in the Council Room

Lite refreshments will be provided.



Italian Buffet and Basket Raffle

Saturday, April 13 - 6 p.m.

Adults: \$20 Children under 10: \$10

Watch for details.



Social Concerns meets every second Monday of the month In Council Room at 7 p.m. We have been busy collecting food for our Easter baskets for Northampton County Children and Youth families along with a few of our local families that are in need. A **BIG thank you** for all of your donations towards this outreach. Your donations helped 46 families with food. Our monthly free choice food pantry continues to serve Northampton County residents, averaging 44 families monthly. Our pantry is every fourth Saturday of the month from 11:30-1:30. We are always in need of volunteers.

Women's Association will meet Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. We are gearing up for our Election Day Bake Sale on Tuesday, April 23. **Baked goods are needed for the Bake Sale.** Please drop off baked goodies in the kitchen marked for the bake sale or bring them on the day of the election. Thank you for your support.



St. John's Preschool is having a busy Spring! Our students will have the opportunity to receive a free vision screening in the month of April, and our Spring Pictures are taking place. Please come to hear our beautiful voices sing in church on April 21! Our students will also be making a special snack to share during fellowship time. We will be hosting a fundraiser at Rita's Italian Ice on May 9th! We'd love for you to join us!

➡ **Preschool Summer Camp registration** is open April 2nd for church members! Any child of preschool age is welcome! We can't wait to see you for an amazing summer! More details are available on our website.

*April Newsletter Sponsor
Hebrews Bible Study Group*

From Team Innovation: Thank you to everyone who participated in the **February Random Acts of Kindness Month**. Here are a few pictures to enjoy.



Parish Ministrations

Deaths

Jeannette L. Smith, born April 4, 1933

Died: February 28, 2024

Carol L. Smith, born February 24, 1940

Died: March 11, 2024



Sunday, June 2, 2024 will be the kick-off to SUMMER ROCKS! A time of family fun to get the summer started! Make it a goal

this summer to make a difference in the community. Check out next month's newsletter for details! Hope to see you there!

2024 Rummage Sale

Friday and Saturday, May 10 & 11

Help needed from May 2 through May 11

More information to follow.

April Sponsorship Opportunities

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Flowers - \$25

Worship Guides and Online Ministry - \$20

Please email or call the Church Office if you would like to be a sponsor for one of the open dates. Please include the date of sponsorship and who it is in memory or honor of as we will include an acknowledgement in the announcements during the service. Checks may be mailed to the church with a notation indicating sponsorship. Thank you!



Sparks and Xplosion - April 7 - 5 p.m. - Movie and Pizza Night - This should be fun! Why not bring a friend?

YA'S - "Someone Like You" Regal Theatre - TBD

Faith Formation - After Easter...What's next?
April 21 - We're out of the house...traveling to *Columcille Megalith Park* in Bangor PA. Columcille is a sacred space for contemplation and renewal. Anyone want to join us? All are welcome!!

Summer Crew - Getting ready for Italian Dinner and Basket Raffle. Contact Marge for details.

Looking to attend Contemporary concerts locally?
Sherman Theater, Stroudsburg PA: April 6 - Jeremy Camp; June 23 - Newsboys
Giant Center, Hershey PA: April 19 - Chris Tomlin

Children's Faith Formation

Bible Buddies Class (ages 3 years - 1st grade)

April 7 - The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20

Memory Verse: *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life."* John 14:6

April 14 - Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene - John 20:1-18

Memory Verse: *"Jesus is not here! He has risen!"* Luke 24:6

April 21 - Jesus Heals Ten Men - Luke 17:11-19

Memory Verse: *"Never stop praying."* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

April 28 - Daniel in the Lion's Den - Daniel 6: 10-23

Memory Verse: (same as 4/21)

Kingdom Kids Class (grades 2-4)

Memory verse *"The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever."* Isaiah 40:8

April 7 - God Calls Abram - Genesis 12:1-8

April 14 - Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing - Genesis 27:35, 41-45

April 21 - The Plagues of Frogs, Gnats and Flies - Exodus 8

April 28 - The Sun Stands Still - Joshua 10:1-15



April Worship Schedule

In-person and Livestream: 9 a.m. – Contemporary 11 a.m. – Classic

Worship livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcx65EeJnEM6B-HrRVaai1g>

April 7

Are you perfect? Do you get it right all the time, every time? If your answer is yes, we need to meet you. If your answer is no, then come explore believing in one who offers us life in spite of our imperfections.

Scriptures: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; John 20:19–31

Message: Do you need a Messiah?

April 14

Is believing our only task as disciples, or is there more to it? Worship with us while we consider our call.

Scriptures: Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

Message: Okay, I Believe. Now What?

April 21 – Preschool singing in worship at 9:00.

Worship a God who calls us to see and to care. Worship a God who calls us to respond to what we see. Worship a God who gives us as gifts to each other. Worship this amazing God with us.

Scriptures: Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24

Message: Maintaining Balance – possible?

April 28

Worship the God of Love. Live the life of Love. Praise God with us as we try to find our way.

Scriptures: John 15:1–8; 1 John 4:7–21

Message: Easier Said Than Done?

Special Offerings

April 14 - First Aid Supplies

April 28 – Music Ministry

Grateful For Taxes?



Photo by Sticker Mule on Unsplash

April 15, (or 16, or 17, or 18) are dates etched in my memory. April 15, unless it falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal Holiday, is the day that taxes are due for fiscal year tax filers. It is a day that I dreaded for years because I would always procrastinate in filing my taxes. It's not that I think taxes are unfair or too political, or that I didn't want to pay them, I procrastinated because I was always afraid that I would owe more than I could pay. All of that changed when I met, fell in love with and married a woman who is gifted in money handling and planning and who is able to look at money clearly and not emotionally. My anxiety disappeared and so did my procrastination.

And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him. Mark 12:14–17

This may shock you, but I am actually grateful that we pay taxes, that we fund the government so that it can do things I cannot do by myself.

Taxes provide revenue for federal, local, and state governments to fund essential services--defense, highways, police, a justice system--that benefit all citizens, who could not provide such services very effectively for themselves. Taxes also fund programs and services that benefit only certain citizens, such as health, welfare, and social services; job training; schools; and parks.¹

I am grateful, because, as is noted above, I could not afford to pay for my children's educations if I had to pay the dollar amount of services my children received while they were in school. I could not have helped people who I don't know and who I will never meet, be able to get food and medical care and educate their children because of our tax dollars. I am grateful that when someone who has worked hard all their life runs out of money, our Social Security taxes and Medicare taxes support their living. I am grateful because together we can send aid to other people around the world.

I am grateful that God uses us to work together in order to share our blessings. I am aware that we don't all agree on which taxes are necessary and which are unnecessary. I can't help but admire the fact that God even uses "what is due the emperor" to make our lives better. Some, but not all, of our tax money goes to help the very people who Jesus reminds us that God wants us to care for. A group of us are finishing up a Bible study of the gospel according to Luke which focuses on Jesus lifting up the lowly. We are asked to lift up the lowly in his name. I believe some of our taxes help do that. So, thank you for doing your part to make the lives of our fellow humans better. Please note that I am not saying citizens, because our tax dollars help non-citizens as well. I wonder if thinking about our taxes in this way might make us grateful that we are able to make a difference in so many lives

Pastor Jeff

¹https://apps.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/teacher/whys_thm01_les01.jsp#:~:text=Taxes%20provide%20revenue%20for%20federal,services%20very%20effectively%20for%20themselves.

Nazareth Food Bank - Pasta, cereal, Manwich, peanut butter & jelly

Please place all donated items in the shopping cart in the DeRemer Gallery. Thank you!