

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. hear our prayer, O Lord.
Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us thy peace.*

SERMON

Mission Team

OUR OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us"
William Bradbury/Cindy Berry

* THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors)

* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

* HYMN #424 (Green Hymnal) "The Servant Song"

* SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE "To God Be The Glory" William H. Doane/Jack Schrader

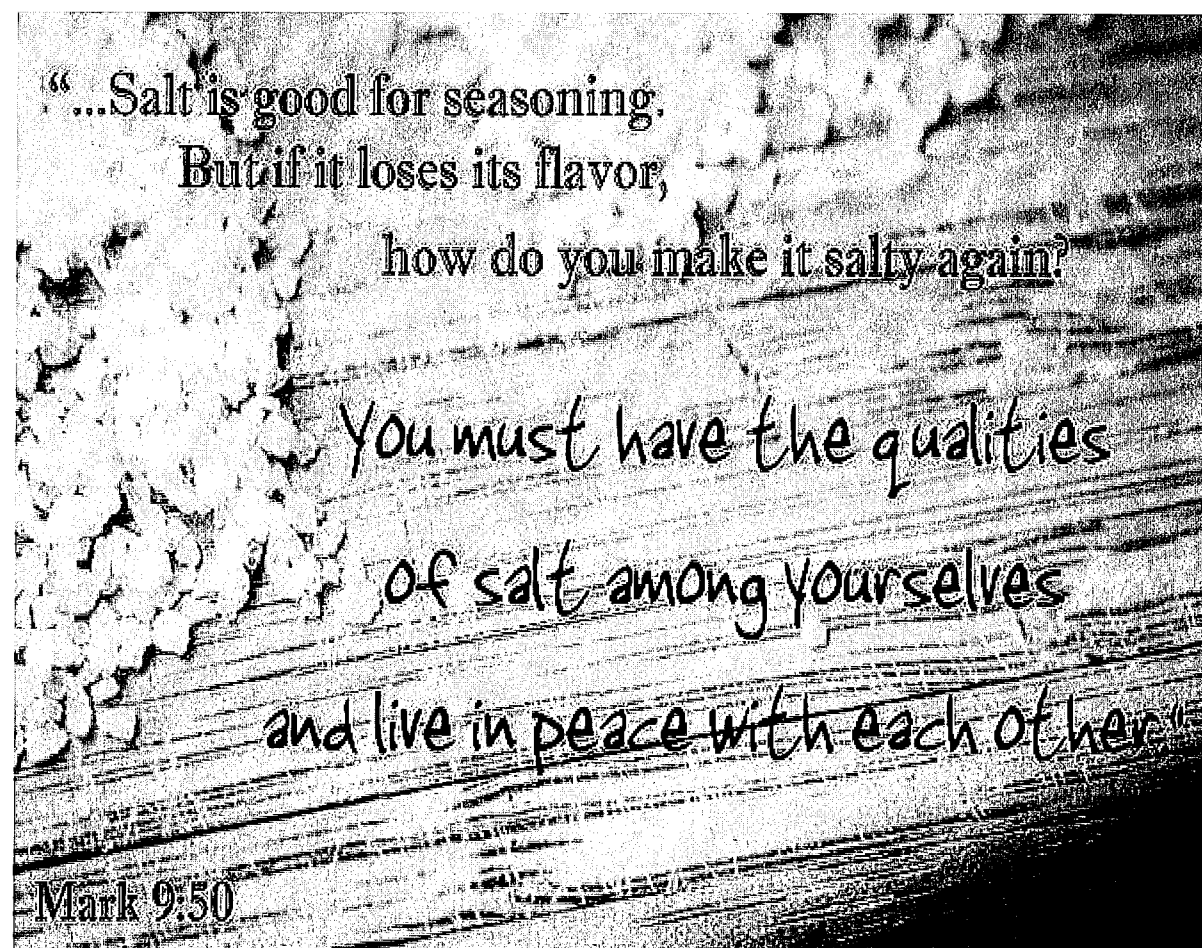
*Please stand as you are able

CCLI Copyright License - 11267785CCLI
Streaming License - CSPL078521
One License - A-740327

St. Mark's United Church of Christ
426 North Eighth Street
Lebanon, PA 17046
(717) 273-0151

E-mail: st.marks426@verizon.net
Website: www.saintmarksucc.com

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor



September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Bob Hoffman

God is Still Speaking ...

"We should not ask, 'What is wrong with the world?' for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather we should ask, 'What has happened to salt and light?'"
John Stott

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Theme From 'Finlandia'" Jean Sibelius/Wm. M. Felton

* SOLEMN DECLARATION AND SUNG AMEN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come so that we can worship our God,

People: Whose words restore us to life.

Pastor: We come so that we can follow Jesus,

People: Whose hopes for justice are crystal clear.

Pastor: We come so that we can learn from the Spirit,

People: Whose teachings help us to understand how to live as God's people.

*HYMN #391 (Green Hymnal) "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have offered us words which can restore our lives and relationships, but we have failed to use them or we twist them into insults and accusations. You would welcome us into the family of those who serve humbly, but we have preferred to hang out with the arrogant and spiteful. You have blessed our lives with all manner of gifts, but we continue to envy what others have. Keep us on our toes, Loving God, lest we continue to trip over our foolishness. In your mercy, may we not offer a fist, but a helping hand to another; may we walk with the lonely,

rather than push them away; may we look for the forgotten, rather than right past them; may we continue to listen to your Word of life, Jesus Christ, so we might trust in your grace and hope...

Silent confession...

* KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* WORDS OF GRACE AND MERCY

God's hopes for us are crystal clear. With God's forgiveness, we have been restored to new life; with God's love, we are being sent out to live as faithful people. God uses the building blocks of grace, hope, love, and peace to create new hearts and new lives for us.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SCRIPTURES (insert)

Old Testament

Psalm 19: 7 - 14

*Gospel

Mark 9: 38 - 50

* THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

* PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH – THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Psalm 19: 7 – 14

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

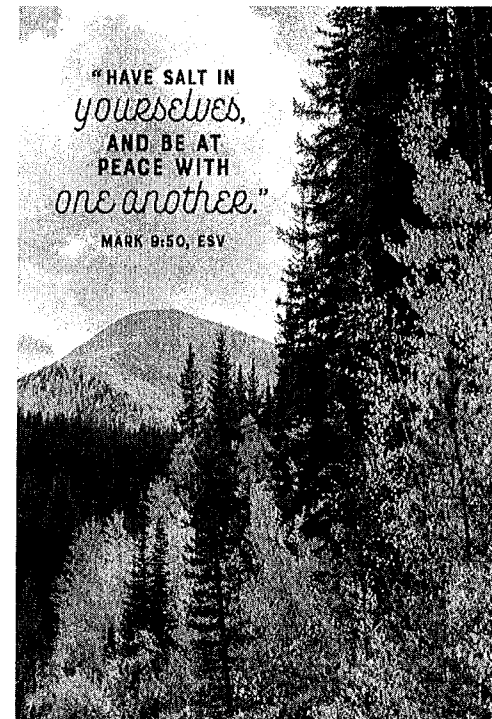
Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Mark 9: 38 – 50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be

better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."



Keystone Working Group – Bulletin Insert 2

“Together We Are Stronger” Staffing a New Conference

When the four Conference Ministers started meeting to explore options for sharing resources, the topic of staffing was forefront in their discussions. Staffing has been one of the key components of discussion during the Keystone Working Group (KWG) meetings. The staffing subcommittee, previously comprised of the four Conference Ministers, kept the KWG updated every month on their progress. At the time of our joint annual meeting in June the KWG had a tentative staffing model for a Keystone Conference.

The subcommittee is now being expanded to include the personnel chairs from all four conferences so we can begin to look at transitional staffing needs and position descriptions should the November vote be approved by all four conferences. Having a transitional staffing plan in place is key to starting any merger process for the four conferences.



It is important to note that this is a staff model and may be altered as we move forward in the implementation of the merger. Succession planning, especially when it comes to staffing, will have a positive effect on the overall success of every aspect of a new Keystone Conference.

“While the working group initially considered several different forms for sharing resources, they overwhelmingly opted for fully combining the conferences as the best way to serve congregations, conferences, and pastors.”

~ Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, PNEC Conference Minister

Next Town Hall Sessions

The conversations around the timeline, staffing model and finances are available for registration. Please use the QR code, on all conferences websites or contact your conference office.



QR code.

In each townhall conversation, the timeline will be reviewed for possible action toward our vote, the motion to the General Synod and next steps.

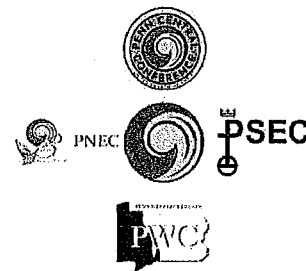
Merger Motion Vote by 4 Conferences Nov. 9, 2024

Each congregation is allowed their usual number of delegates to vote on the merger motion. See each conference for details to register, participate and make your vote count! The full motion is available on the website.

For more information: <https://psec.org/keystone/>

Motion to General Synod, July 11-15, 2025

If approved by all 4 conferences, the motion is presented to General Synod for UCC delegates' approval.



“We face the unknown, but God is known!”

-- Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

President and General Minister of the UCC to the delegates at the gathered PA area conferences.

ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Andy Shearer
Deb Weise
Lynn Balmer
David Ansalvish (Cindy Johnson's Brother)
Rod Nissley (Deb Ellis' son)
David Minnich (Friend of Deb Ellis)
Stephanie Wagner (Faye Fox's niece)
Jeffrey Clouser & Brent Weaver
Trudy Berkheimer
John Blanda (Lynn Balmer's brother-in-law)
Gayle & Ed Olden
Cindy Johnson
Eva Miller
Regine Halsall (Friend of Deb Ellis)
Megan, Jaxon and Ava Tilley
Tony Furman
Larry Houser
Michael Worhach (Russ Scholl's son-in-law)
John Schieber
Ed Bennett (Kelly Bell's step-father)
Ken and Charlotte Wengert
Members from our church family who are shut-in or
home bound
The People of Ukraine
The Civilian Victims of the fighting in the Middle East

ST. MARK'S CALENDAR
For the Week of September 29, 2024

Sunday Koffee Klatsch – 9:30-10 AM and 11-11:15 AM
Worship Service – 10 AM
Adult Sunday School – 11:15 AM
Preventing Bullying Class – Fellowship Hall –
after worship service

Monday Nominating Committee Meeting – 1 PM –
Conference Room

Wednesday Bible Study – 10 AM
Women's Bible Study-6:30 PM-Fellowship Hall



ST. MARK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the Communion table are presented to the Glory of God in honor of Sean and Meredith Myers 10th anniversary on September 13th and Greg and Yvonne Myers 38th anniversary on September 20th.

The bulletins are sponsored by Becky Colban and Dawn Shultz in honor of the Mission Team. Thanks to the team for positively representing St. Mark's in our community and with WARM in NC. We are proud of all of you!

Flowers and Bulletins – Dates available for flowers are: October 27. Dates available for bulletins are: October 20 and November 17 and 24. Please contact the office if interested in sponsoring any flowers or bulletins.

Roof Repairs – There are envelopes in the narthex labeled "Roof Repairs." We would appreciate your help with this project. As of September 22nd, we have collected \$9,549.86 towards the roof repairs.

Blanket Sunday – there is a brochure in your bulletin today. Watch for an envelope in your bulletin on October 6th to support Blanket Sunday.

Boscov's Coupons – are now available through September. Cost is \$5.00 per coupon. Shopping day is Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Budget Requests – for 2025 – are due to the church office by Sunday, October 13th. The Stewardship Committee will begin preparing the budget in late October.

Lebanon Rescue Mission Meal – Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 6 to 8 PM. Sign up sheets in narthex for volunteers and food items.

Potluck Luncheon – will be held Sunday, October 13, 2024, after the worship service. Sign up sheet in narthex for members attending and food you will be bringing. Suggestions are: side dishes, casseroles, salads, desserts or fruit salad.

Trick or Treat Night – Thursday, October 31, 2024 – 6 to 8 PM. Sign up sheet in narthex. We will need individually wrapped candy or snacks. There is a box in the narthex.

Women's Retreat – has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 19th – 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Sign up sheet in narthex. We will be studying "The Remarkable Women of the Bible and Their Message for You."

Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards – will be sold starting October 27th to November 10th. Great Christmas Gifts. Please see Dawn Shultz.

Medicine Bottles – please note, we are not collecting medicine bottles at this time. The office of VIM does not take them right now.

Save the Dates:

October 6	Blanket Sunday and Holy Communion Preventing Bullying Class – after worship service Rescue Mission Meal
October 13	Potluck Luncheon Pumpkin Carving – Kid's Team
October 19	Women's Retreat – 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
October 20	Hoss's Day
October 31	Trick or Treat Night – 6 to 8 PM
November 2	Community Meal
November 18, 19, 20	Candy Making

Conference Call information:
Dial (215) 383-1625 Enter conference code: 569284
Press* when asked for your attendee pin