



September 25, 2016

## “Tell Me The Stories of Jesus” Christian Education Gathering-October 2, 2016

By Betsy Majewski

**“Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear ;Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here; Scenes by the wayside, Tales of the Sea; Stories of Jesus, Tell them to me”**

Those words written by William H. Parker come from one of my favorite childhood hymns. We sang it often in Sunday School as we got ready to hear those stories of Jesus (and Moses and David and Mary and Paul and many, many others). These stories are an important part of our faith formation. As we read and study these stories led by a good Christian educator, we can imagine and explore and wonder and learn what they mean to each of us. And as we spend that time with those good educators and other classroom staff, we can know how much we are loved and learn to show love in ways the world doesn't always teach.

Good Christian Education teachers don't just happen. It requires a love of God and Christ, a desire to share that with others, love for their students, and the tools and support needed to be best they can be. Some of the best tools for teaching come from those of us who do it, and a great place for support is from the community of church educators.

To offer those tools and support, there will be a conference-wide gathering for anyone who has an interest in Christian Education. All are welcome to meet on Sunday October 2, 2016 at UCC Christ Church 1003 W. Marshall St. Norristown, PA 19401 from 3 pm until 5 pm. On the agenda is discussion of best practices along with ideas for your ministry for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Each participant is requested to bring Thanksgiving, Advent, and/or Christmas ideas, suggestions, pageants, plays, curriculum, etc., to share with others.

There is no fee, but in order to know how many people are coming, please register by September 28, 2016 by emailing Betsy Majewski ([bmajewski10@aol.com](mailto:bmajewski10@aol.com)) or Donna Mosebach ([ddmosebach@gmail.com](mailto:ddmosebach@gmail.com)). You can also contact Betsy or Donna with any questions. Monetary donations are welcome (but not required) at the gathering to offset the cost of refreshments. Hope to see lots of you there!

Getting to Know :

**New Jerusalem UCC**

33 Lyons Rd., Fleetwood, PA 19522

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the PSEC,



New Jerusalem UCC, Fleetwood is a small congregation in a rural setting. We recently celebrated our 175th anniversary. Eighteen years ago, after sharing a building with our Lutheran neighbors for many years, we built a new, no-steps-to-negotiate, completely handicapped accessible building that houses our sanctuary, offices and Sunday school classrooms. We are grateful that we can serve our community by providing space for three Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and two Al-Anon meetings each week; we are also having conversations with Nar-Anon. A ministry for veterans is new to us. In 2017 the VA will begin using our building to provide counseling and support services for veterans, as well as informational meetings for the spouses of deceased veterans regarding VA benefits that are available. We help to support a local food pantry and a Loaves and Fishes meal ministry. In 2014 we voted to begin the process of becoming an open and affirming church.



There are many challenges that come with being a small congregation. Thanks to a solid core of dedicated volunteers, our shoo-fly pie sales help to significantly support our annual budget—more than 4,000 pies are made each year! In an effort to change with the times and adapt to the spiritual needs of a new generation, we have been rethinking the way we utilize our sanctuary space on Sunday morning and the style of worship we offer. We are also currently looking to partner with another congregation to combine resources and explore new possibilities for ministry. Even though we are small in number, New Jerusalem UCC is always looking for new ways to serve in Christ's name.



Prayers are requested for Rev. James Dunn and the congregation of New Jerusalem UCC in Fleetwood.