



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

Church Office: 610-264-8421

August 2021



Vol. 14 Issue 7

"Our Church Connection"



"For everything there is a season..."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

"We love and let go and yes it's hard..."

These are the words on the front of my favorite Seeing Eye puppy raiser t-shirt - and they reflect the #1 question puppy raisers are asked when people find out that our puppies need to be returned to The Seeing Eye somewhere around age 15 months.

"How can you do that?" "Don't you really miss them?"

The answer is on the back of the t-shirt: "But oh so worth it!" Yes, it's hard to return our four-footed charges to The Seeing Eye, but the opportunity to spend time with these smart, sweet puppies, to watch them learn and mature, and to know that our work as puppy raisers will help transform a blind person's life makes loving and letting go "Oh so worth it!"

This month I will let go of another thing that I have loved. On August 1, I will say goodbye to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. It will be hard to let go, but once again, it will have been "oh so worth it!"

It has been my delight and privilege to serve as the Interim Pastor at St. John's UCC, Fullerton over the last fifteen months. I have enjoyed getting to know so many faithful and caring people and journeying alongside of members of this active congregation as you have prepared to call your new settled pastor. I have appreciated your willingness to try new things and the hard work everyone has done figuring our new ways to "be the church" both during this unique interim time and as you look towards the future. SJF is in great shape for your next season of "Worshipping, Loving and Serving - No Matter What!" - Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your partnership in ministry, and blessings as you step into the future God is calling you to.

Be God's,
Pastor Bonnie

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So What Happens Next?

Worship at St. John's during August will be led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp and Rev. Becca Stephens, and a contract is being finalized with a Bridge Pastor who will begin in early September - more details coming soon! Rev. David Quinn will continue to provide pastoral care throughout this time.

Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to any Elder: Marion DeMilio, Gary Madaus, or Brian Fisher.



Boundaries...

During the 9:30 service on Sunday, August 1, my last Sunday at St. John's, we will participate in a Liturgy of Farewell. We will be charged to separate in a clear way, both so you will be able to build a solid, trusting, and supportive relationship with your new settled pastor, and so that I am freed to focus fully on the new ministry God is calling me to.

One of the hardest parts of the dissolution of any pastoral relationship, even a short-term one, both for members of the congregation and for the departing pastor, is the necessity of terminating the asking for or offering of pastoral services. After August 1, I will no longer be available to St. John's members for weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospital calls, church activities, pastoral care, counseling, or even Zoom help ☺ by phone, email, or in person. Nor will I be available for conversation or discussions about church life or decisions St. John's is considering. I will also be placing all St. John's Facebook "friends" in a separate filter where I won't see your posts and you won't see mine for at least a year (which should actually not be a huge deal for anyone, since I'm rarely on Facebook!)

If any of this sounds extreme, please understand that the UCC Ministerial Code of Ethics requires these steps. What's more, I have seen firsthand the damage that is done in faith communities by pastors who do not separate from their congregation in a healthy way - and I care too much about the welfare and future of SJF to let that happen.

I am grateful that our faith makes it possible to accept these boundaries with positive feelings, recognizing them as what they are intended to be - signs of our love and respect for each other and our future ministries in the name of Jesus. After all, we are all but temporary characters in the ongoing story of God's redeeming love. We come and go, but the Author remains, steadfast and eternal!

St. John's is also blessed in that you have the Rev. David Quinn, your Pastor of Visitation, to provide a continuity of pastoral care, and you have many gifted and faithful church members who will provide leadership alongside the supply and bridge pastors until your new settled pastor arrives.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Interim Senior Pastor over these past fifteen months. It has been a delight and an honor to journey alongside of you.

Blessings,
Pastor Bonnie

MEET THE STAFF

Gail Hanzl, Music Director



St. John's has been my place of employment for twenty years. I studied piano for eight years and organ for twenty years. My first organ position was St. Paul's Union Church, Cementon. One Sunday was the United Church of Christ service and the next Sunday was the Lutheran service. I served as organist and director of music in Lutheran and United Church of Christ churches for 40 plus years. Because I am familiar with the Roman Catholic liturgy, I also substitute in many Lehigh Valley parishes.

My husband and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in May of 2021. We have two grown children and four grandchildren. My hobbies are a passion for all types of music and reading.



HISTORIAN

A church historian records historical identity of the congregation so that the heritage will be preserved by understanding the past and help the congregation move into the future.

The consistory of St. John's UCC, Fullerton decided to implement the position of Historian to move our church into the future as learning from the past. As a new senior pastor joins our church family, it would be helpful to have a knowledgeable person in place to help understand the history of the church. Emilie Moyer was selected to lead this endeavor. She has a vast of information that will be extremely helpful to the new pastor. Reaching out to others will be important in forming this new charge. If you see Emilie, please congratulate her on this new position.

Consistory of St. John's UCC, Fullerton



The Keystone Miller Blood Mobile will be here at St. John's parking lot on Sunday, July 25, 2021. I really need donors, but it seems a lot of people are on vacation. Please call me to sign up as soon as possible. Remember, you are saving lives. God Bless You Sharon Antrim 610-216-6207



Rachel Eichman graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor of science in chemical and biological engineering and a minor in biomedical engineering summa cum laude. She will be moving to Boston, Massachusetts for a job at Strand Therapeutics. Rachel helped with the national church to coordinate the young adult program for the UCC General Synod this summer "Rooted in Love."

Evelyn Sagzio



We will resume the flowers for the altar in September. Flowers to honor, in memory, or for a celebration. The flowers will be provided by Rich Mar Florist, the cost is \$25.00 for one vase of fresh cut or a floral arrangement.

Please send request to: MYoung.Flowers@yahoo.com and sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com. Please send payment to St. John's office or place in the offering plate. The Payment will need to be received prior to placing the order.

Please include the following with each request:

Your Name, Phone Number, Name of individual, In Memory, In Honor, or Type of Celebration you would like to commemorate, and Requested Date.

Please advise if you will be taking the flowers after church, or if you would like to donate them to our shut-ins or a nursing home.

Available dates

September	October	November	December
5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26

Music and Worship Committee



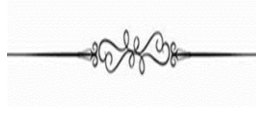
Pavilion Finances 6-22-2021

Balance June 1	\$145,669.56
Construction Contracts	\$271,056.80
June 1 projected shortfall	\$125,387.24
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June Balance:	\$145,669.56
Advance construction Payments	\$53,768.95

Fund Balance	\$ 91,900.61
June deposits	\$ 37,330.00
Pavilion Balance June 22	\$129,230.61
Outstanding contractual obligations	\$232,983.85
Project shortfall	(\$103,753.24)

The above is a summary of the finances related to the pavilion project. The shortfall will be covered by our capital campaign and a loan with Cornerstone Fund—the investment company affiliated with the U.C.C. To protect against unforeseen expenses, the loan will be in the amount of \$120,000—but interest is paid only on monies withdrawn, and there is no prepayment penalty.

The fact this project has come this far, is a testament to the faithfulness of you, our members. Thank you for your past and continuing support of our campaign as fulfilling our “dream” is close to becoming a reality.



The Men’s Breakfast Group

The Men’s Breakfast Group of St. John’s will begin meeting again on the first Saturday of the month at the **Hamilton Family Restaurant** located at **2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown**. We would be pleased to have you join us. The next meeting is scheduled for **August 7 at 8:30 a.m.** If you would like to know about this group, please contact Bob Bold at 610-393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

GROCERY GIFT CARDS

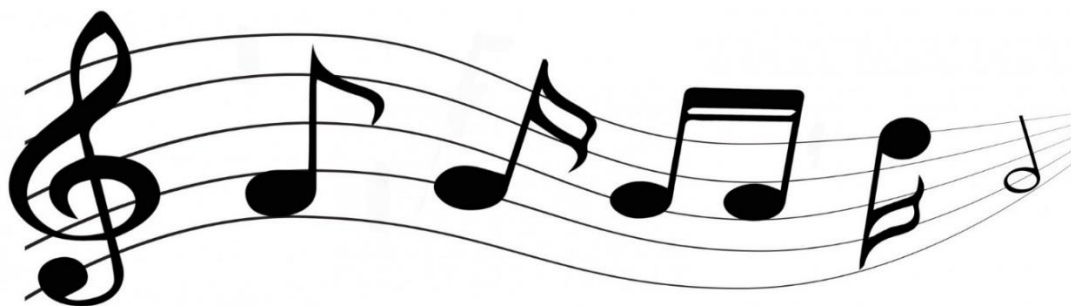


Weis and Giant gift cards are available for purchase in various denominations. The church receives a percentage on each one that you purchase. If interested, please contact Debbie in the church office 610-264-8421.

Newsletter deadline at St. John’s will be the second (2nd) Sunday of each month

Are you receiving church envelopes, but not using them? If you are giving electronically, please call the church office, so we can stop the church envelopes from being mailed to you.

AUGUST MUSIC NOTES



FINALLY! Choir rehearsals will be starting. Because of Covid, choirs have not met for almost a year and a half. Because of fewer cases and increased vaccinations, rehearsals will begin in September. I am happy to announce the following schedule.

CHANCEL CHOIR - Wednesday, September 15th, 7:30 p.m. - The Chancel Choir will sing for the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

JUBLIATION CHOIR - Monday, September 20th, 6:15 p.m. - Jubilation is a three-art women's choir who will sing once a month at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

HANDBELL CHOIR - Monday, September 20th, 7:00 p.m. - This choir will also ring once a month at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

A big 'thank you' goes to all of the musicians who have helped since March of 2019. Our worship services were filled with beautiful and inspiring music because of all who gave of their time and talent for St. John's.

Choir members are needed. All choirs are open to all who enjoy music. I do hear you all singing in the congregation, and you sound good. For additional information or questions, please speak with me.

GOD MADE MUSIC

Music is a ministry
That warms our hearts
And sets us free.
Through each note of praise
You play or sing,
We all rejoice in
Christ our King!

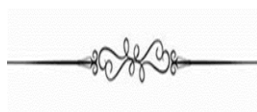
Please join us!

Musically,

Gail

Would you like to meet some new people in the congregation and welcome everyone to our church? The worship and music committee is looking for members, groups, or families to greet the congregation, hand out bulletins, and deliver the offering to the front of the sanctuary. We would like to have three people before each of the in-person worship services.

There is a list of duties that we can share with you. If you are interested in helping at our in-person worship service this summer, please contact Ellen Sagazio (484)264-1182 or email at esagazio@hotmail.com.



*** We're B-a-c-k ***
Put on Your Calendar!

- ★ **Chicken Dinner & Bake Sale**- Pick-up on Friday, October 8, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Grape St. parking lot. \$12.50 for dinner plus Bake Sale.
- ★ **25th Annual Road Rally** - Sunday, October 17, after worship.
- ★ **Pastie Sale** - Coming in the Fall.
- ★ **Nut & Fruit Sale** - Coming in the October/November. Past customers will be notified.
- ★ **Fresh Potato Filling Sale** - Pick-up Saturday, November 20, & Sunday, November 21. \$7.00/2 lb. Volunteers will be needed.

Watch for more information and order forms in future newsletters and bulletins.

Are you receiving church envelopes, but not using them? If you are giving electronically, please call the church office, so we can stop the church envelopes from being mailed to you.

Let's help save trees!! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email as opposed by mail, please call Deb at the church office so she can add you to the email group.

Do you receive St. John's "Mail Chimp" email blasts?

They are sent out periodically to provide updated information about upcoming church events. If you don't receive these emails and would like to, please provide your email address to the church office at 610-264-8421 or sjofficesecretary@gmail.com. Thanks!

Redner's Receipt Tapes

Please continue to use your Redner's card and save your register receipts for the church. We are continuing to collect them and receive money back from Redner's. Please turn your tapes in to the church office as we will continue submitting them. This is just another way to help the church financially just by purchasing your groceries and turning in the receipts.

St. John's Prayer Chain Committee

Did you know St John's has a prayer chain group, currently with about 15 members? If you are interested in keeping others in prayer, we are always welcoming new members to join us. Please contact [Kim Hillegass](mailto:kim1257@aol.com) at 610-360-7895 or kim1257@aol.com and we will gladly add you to the group. Most of our communications are done by email when requests come in but calls will be made to members who don't have an email address. Please join us.

In need of prayers for you or someone you know? You can contact the Office or Pastor or Kim to have someone added to our list.

JUST ANOTHER WAY TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

I am currently scheduling the scripture readers for St. John's services. I know there are more people that have read the scriptures in the past and would like to add you to the list of people that I already have. The scriptures can be read via Zoom or in person once we resume in-person services. Please either call me at 610-443-0161 or email me at cstauffer206@aol.com. I currently contacted everyone with the available opportunities via email.

This is a very easy way to assist your church....Be the Church....No Matter What!

Cheryl Weaver

Text-to-Give!

Here's another way you can make secure donations to St. John's via your smartphone! Text the amount you want to donate to (844) 935-3593 - it's a free call! The first time you do this, you will be led through a step-by-step process to set up your giving account and make payments via a credit card or direct debit from your checking account. For future donations, all you will need to do is text the amount of your donation to that

number. (Note from Pastor Bonnie - I have that phone number saved on my phone as "Give" so I don't have to remember the phone number!) All donations made via text-to-give will be included on your end-of-the-year giving statement.

You can also text funds to the same number to see a list of funds to which you can donate to, then text the amount you want to give, space, and fund name to donate to a specific fund. Unspecified donations received through text-to-give will go to the St. John's UCC General Operating Fund. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. John's!



AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



1	Brenda & Dennis Pascoe	18	Diane & William Orlowsky
	Clarissa & Donnie Brensinger	19	Margaret & Richard Baatz, Sr.
3	Donna & Russell Chorney		Stephanie & Craig Hanzl
5	Annamarie & Robert Barrall		Alyssa & Bradley Beckwith
6	Michelle & Ryan Brobst		Andrea & Joseph Guan
7	Beth & Gary D. Neitz	20	Roberta & Bruce Pope
8	Christine & Stephen Reck		Kathy & James Haggerty
9	Stacy & Timothy Sommer	21	Linda & Charles Apple
11	Robin & Donald Brensinger		Tammy & Mark Yura
	Lissa & Ken Wuchter		Melissa & Kyle Szoke
14	Stephanie & Brian Deutsch	22	Beverly & Lamar Peters
15	Sharon & Donald Foellner		Connie & John Viglione
	Virginia & Ted Hess	23	Amanda & Jeffrey Phillips
16	Sandra & Ronald Glass	24	Rachel & Edward Pollitt
	Carolann & David Adams	30	Grace & David Mohr
17	Noemi & David Quinn		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



8/1	Debra Altorfer		8/9	Kayla Bryant		8/20	Barbara Holden
	Nancy Bowman			Jeanne Fischl			Lee Ann Lopez
	Diane Buss	8/10		Jackson Hentz			James Molinaro
	Laney Headman	8/11		Alexander Bryant	8/21		Thomas Heppe
	Robert Jennings			Deadra Clewell			Stanley Luckenbill
8/2	Jay Gilbert			Sandra Diefenderfer			Gary W. Neitz
	Robert Saeger, III			MaryBeth McNicholas	8/23		Jim Carr
8/3	Brianna Kuhns	8/13		Michael Gravely			Emma Rarich
	Joshua Mill	8/14		David Mohr	8/24		Diane Orlowsky
	Thomas Miller			Gregory Sommer			Jacob Verba
	Wayne Nottle			Becca Stephens	8/25		Pamela Williams
	John Viglione	8/15		Angela Buskirk	8/26		Lori Silfies
	Matthew Young			Noreen Muth	8/27		Donald Devers, Jr.
8/4	Eric Lord			Peggy Snyder	8/28		Marina Newton
	Nicole McWilliams	8/16		Gail Green	8/29		Nancy Delp
	Marilyn Piskula			Andrea Guan			Scott Eberhart
	Adam Rarich	8/17		Matthew Buskirk			Linda Helfrich
	Lynette Schutts			Johanna Carlisle			Kathryn Kaintz
	Gabe Wright			TrevorHeffelfinger			Jamie Santee
	Margaret Young			Joanne Heppe			Tyler Shankweiler
8/5	Regina Mohr	8/18		Amanda Phillips	8/30		Carole Flores
	David Quinn	8/19		Patricia stumpf			Shirley George
8/6	Stephanie Batdorf	8/20		William Csaszar	8/31		Ellen Sagazio
8/7	Veronica Miller			Sharon Czekner			
	Austyn Venanzi			Michelle Funk			

DEATHS

Thomas Piskula passed away on June 16, 2021.

Colleen Chrysta - Passed away on June 24, 2021. Colleen was survived by her daughters, Abby Hoffmann and Allyson Seibert.



Mission Moment!

Last Chance – Backpack & School Supplies Drive

Equipping a child with the needed school supplies can be a burden that many low-income parents and homeless families are not able to afford. The school year starts on August 30, and we have a wonderful opportunity to help.



Listed below are items you can donate:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ☺ New/gently used backpacks | ☺ 1” & 1½” 3-ring binders | ☺ Pencil sharpeners | ☺ Composition books |
| ☺ Loose-leaf notebook paper | ☺ Index cards | ☺ Erasers (no pen caps) | ☺ Rulers |
| ☺ Pencil cases with zipper | ☺ Pencils | ☺ Box of crayons | ☺ Yellow highlighters |
| ☺ Black permanent markers | ☺ Pens (blue or black) | ☺ Dividers with tabs | ☺ Plastic water bottles |
| ☺ Colored pocket folders | ☺ Colored pencils | ☺ Glue sticks | ☺ Granola/cereal bars |
| ☺ Calculators – Texas Instrument TI-30XIIS | | ☺ Reusable lunch bags | ☺ Lunch boxes |

For your convenience, a complete shopping list of the school supplies can be picked up on the table in the coatroom off the sanctuary. Look there for the collection box to place your donated items.

Deadline to receive backpacks and school supplies is Sunday, August 1.

Surfside, Florida Condo Collapse - What You Can Do!



If you want to support the UCC response to the building collapse in Miami, the United Church of Christ is working with the Miami long-term recovery committee (FRIEND) in serving those who have been affected by the collapse. The UCC is seeking funds so they can make grants to support his effort. To make a gift online, you can go to ucc.org/general-donations/. In the fund drop down, select Emergency USA. In the designation box, you can write “Building Collapse in Miami.” Complete the rest of the form. You can also make gift by mailing a check made payable to the United Church of Christ to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Please be sure to note “Emergency USA-Miami Response” on your check in the memo section and/or in an attached letter.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of August, donations are needed for the following: **canned fruit, tuna fish, cereal, and soups**. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items or monetary donations can always be made at any time throughout the year.

How did St. John's Family do?

Recent Outreaches	June	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,305.00	\$8,890.90	\$9,884.26
Strengthen the Church	\$ 25.00	\$ 170.00	August
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 75.00	\$1,540.00	\$2,023.00
Mask Ministry	\$ 10.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 529.00

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 25 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30am Blood Drive 11:00am Pavilion Dedication	26	27 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00pm Tuesday Talkbacks	28	29	30	31 1 - 2 PM Ice Cream Social; Parking Lot
Aug 1 9:30 AM Worship Service	2	3 6:30pm S & F Meeting	4 8:00am Joe Corbi's delivery and pick-up	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship Service	9	10 6:30pm Elders; Room 201 7:00pm Consistory Meeting; Room 201	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship Service	16	17	18 6:30pm St. John's UCC "Fun" Raising Committee's Zoom Meeting; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88217354013 ; Debbie Hoffman	19	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28