



St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

A monthly update from the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Volume 15 • Issue 114 • March 2022

A Day of Celebration and Affirmation

Installation Service, Sunday, March 20, 2:00pm



Many sacred moments come to mind in the life of one's pastoral ministry. I can easily recall my confirmation day, my call to ministry, first sermon, first time to preach in my home congregation, when I became licensed as a student/local pastor, graduating from seminary, my ordination services, some very special baptisms, weddings and funerals, and the list goes on. Marvelous memories of sacred moments.

Other important moments where my faith journey took new directions stand out in my memory as well. The pain of being forced out of ministry because of who I am in my journey of discovering and embracing my own orientation and identity. The anxiousness of wondering if God would ever use me again to serve in pastoral ministry. The blessing of being welcomed into an Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation in Dallas, TX and of being sponsored to return to ministry in the United Church of Christ. On March 7, I will celebrate the seven-year anniversary of authorized ministry in the UCC. The bliss of being unanimously approved for authorization of Privilege of Call on March 7, 2015, is only surpassed by the overwhelming affirmation of St. John's UCC, Fullerton, electing me and voting to call me as your settled Senior Pastor on October 24, 2021.

Sacred moments abound for us! On March 20 at 2pm, we are invited to gather in the sanctuary for a time of celebration and affirmation as I am officially installed as the settled Senior Pastor of St. John's UCC, Fullerton. You have shared in these high moments of holy covenant with other clergy leaders and teachers who have been called to serve. This day will be particularly meaningful for me as it will be the first congregation in which I will be installed as a minister in the UCC!

We will be honored by special guests and denominational leaders sharing their words of support and affirmation with us. Among them will be a video greeting from our General Minister and UCC President, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. I'm also thrilled to share that Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza, my friend, mentor and former minister from Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, who now serves as Senior Pastor of Broadway UCC in New York, will bring the message that afternoon. Michael has been a much sought after speaker and national UCC leader, who some may remember as a Penn NE Conference Annual Meeting keynote speaker in years past.

Former ministers and pastors from around the community and Penn NE Conference have been invited to join us in celebration. Our Confirmation Class young people and other congregation leaders will share in support and affirmation. We are hopeful that pandemic conditions will continue to improve so for a more traditional reception celebration in Fox Hall to follow the Installation Service. Look for additional information in the weekly worship bulletin and on the website and Facebook as we get closer to the event date.

When my mom and I were in Jerusalem in January 2015, at a small shop on the Via Dolorosa, we purchased a clergy stole with the Jerusalem Cross (pictured below) to be used for my installation service. 7 years later, the time has come! Thanks be to God!

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis
Senior Pastor



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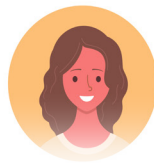
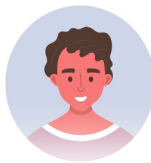


Re-Opening Task Force Update

The Re-Opening Task Force will meet again on March 7 to further evaluate our activities and make recommendations to the Consistory for next steps as the COVID-19 conditions shift from pandemic to endemic stages.

Please watch for updates at www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org, on our Facebook page, and by direct email message updates to the congregation. We continue to ask the congregation to participate in worship and activities with the understanding that we will all abide by distancing guidelines, wear masks (we are providing KN-95 masks for those who want one), and encourage vaccinations/boosters for all those eligible and able to be vaccinated. We are hopeful that we will soon offer expanded activities and options for people to participate in the life of worship, love and service that is ours at St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

Until then, and even after, we invite all to participate online, to welcome family and friends to join us from wherever they may be across the country. Thank you for your continuing faith and cooperation in supporting our whole community. Our hope and prayer is that better days will soon be here for us all!



March Music Notes

Have you noticed the beautiful banner hanging in the back of the sanctuary as you are leaving worship? The banner, Praise God In His Sanctuary, was designed by Cinda Hortin of Tallahassee, Florida, in 2003. It was commissioned by the Moyer, Hermany, and Moll families in honor of and to express their deep appreciation for the choirs of St. John's, and in loving memory of Harold H. and Elsie M. Moll. The banner was dedicated June 15, 2003.



The following is the banner interpretation by Cinda Hortin:

In most churches, it is the ministry of music that leads the congregation in giving praise to God, the giver of all good gifts. In addition to the inspiration of the scripture interpreted from the pulpit in sermon and prayer, the varied forms of sacred music open our ears and eyes to God's direction; invite and encourage our mouths to raise voices in joyful expressions of praise and thanksgiving; expand our hearts and spirits for wider reaching love, compassion, service and reconciliation. Indeed the life and work of the families who present this gift are steeped in commitment to such ministry. So it has been a privilege to try to put their wishes into this art form.

To fabricate this hanging, an assortment of upholstery-weight fabrics, such as chenille velvet of the background and the blue-greens of the appliqué designs, as well as other elements, were selected to echo the colors and style in the furnishings and architecture of the sanctuary.

Psalm 150 stands out as the consummate scriptural example of praise to the glory of God through music in its diverse manifestations and is the basis for this hanging:

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; Praise him according to his greatness! Praise him with the sound of trumpet; Praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with timbrel and dance; Praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; Praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

~Psalm 150 RSV

The central panel – Praise God in His Sanctuary – has at its center an appliqué repeating the shape of the arches and arched windows of the sanctuary and uses colors from the main stained glass window.

Mounted on this arch are five antique organ pipes used earlier in the last century in the Moravian Church of Myers Park in Charlotte, North Carolina. Bishop Herbert Spaugh gave selections of these organ pipes to two brothers, David and Douglas Caldwell. David Caldwell, who lives in Winter Haven, Florida, shared his gift for this banner. His brother, Douglas Caldwell, who has a display of these organ pipes, is the pastor of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Bishop Spaugh, in addition to being pastor of Myers Park Church – known, too, as The Little Church in The Lane – was also a gifted musician who received much of his musical education at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. So, in a roundabout way, these organ pipes, long a traditional symbol for the music of worship and hymnody, have roots in our region.

An even more significant symbol is also part of this central panel: the hand of God. This hand of God, surrounded by a nimbus or halo, a sign of sanctity, has been for centuries the universal symbol for God.

From the outstretched hand of God, we receive every good gift: countless blessings that humble us and evoke our response of thanks and praise to our Lord. It is also the hand of God that reaches out to each of us, inviting us to come into closer relationship with our loving heavenly Father: for nurture, love comfort, forgiveness, motivation and guidance that we may reflect God's love to others.

On the two flanking side panels, rejoicing figures, done in leather and the blue and green fabrics found in the center panel, are joined by the words that tell some of the expressions of praise listed in Psalm 150. The ancient musical instruments of trumpet and lyre are symbolized on the lower edges.

The group of three: the three panels, the three instruments on the right and left panels, and the fleur de lis on the ends of the banner pole represent the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May this hanging enhance your worship experience and call you to even greater expressions of praise for our Lord God.

We thank Cinda Hortin for her design and interpretation of this inspirational banner and also the Moyer, Hermany, and Moll families for honoring the choirs of the church and the loving memory of Harold H. and Elsie M. Moll. Now that you know the story behind the banner, may you have a deeper appreciation and understanding of this work of art.

Musically,
Gail

Financial Update from Annual Meeting 2022

At our February Finance Meeting, Treasurer Sue Weldner gave us the following figures about our average monthly giving:

2019 – \$24,021

2020 – \$20,855

2021 – \$19,941

Last 6 months of 2021 – \$18,350

Why the downtrend?

First, our beloved Pastor retired in 2019. Then came COVID 19, which closed the Church for many Sundays. But mostly, we have experienced many deaths of older members who have supported the Church generously for many years. It is estimated that for each elderly family lost, it will take 4 or 5 new families to replace that lost income. But, with COVID, we have had no new members. Because the Church was closed, visiting our Church was not an option, except on-line. A few members also moved out of the area, and some inactive members were removed, as we followed our constitution.

To illustrate this, in 2019 there were 559 giving units at St. John's. In our 2020 annual report, the number dropped to 485, and in the 2021 report the number is 448.

To add to the problem, our Fundraising committee could not run big events that helped to balance our budget. They have tried many small sales and events which raised smaller amounts of money, but the major fundraising events that called for large gatherings of people have not been held during COVID.

During 2020 and 2021 the budget was balanced in spite of the decrease in donations because we had interim and bridge and fill-in pastors during that time. But now, as the COVID virus seems to be ending, we are blessed to again have a full-time senior pastor. We need to get back to previous giving totals of 2019 to support the work of St. John's. Treasurer Sue estimated that, based on this past January's giving patterns, the year 2022 could end up with a \$57,000 deficit for St. John's.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee is asking all members to look for ways to support St. John's. We encourage you to consider signing up for our electronic offerings program, which provides St. John's with a steady income stream throughout the year. Forty-eight families now use this form of giving, which provides around one-third of our donations received. (\$5839 per month).

Encourage Church members who have not returned to church to revisit. Bring friends. Support the efforts of our "Fun" raising committee. Buy Weiss and Giant gift cards if you happen to shop there. Re-examine your own giving patterns. Be the Church! It will take the efforts of all of us to grow back to the vibrant, growing Church we want to be!

A Time to Celebrate

After two very long years, countless prayers, endless meetings and sleepless nights (for those on your Search Committee at least) we finally have a Senior Pastor to lead us out of the hardships of the pandemic and hopefully into a time where we can allow ourselves to be who we are meant to be – children of God, the body of Christ, who love God and one another. How we long to be with each other in fun, fellowship and service again!

Let's begin in thankful and joyful celebration.

The Installation Service for Pastor Steve Davis will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 2pm. Immediately following the service, there will be fellowship and refreshments in Fox Hall. This will be with respect to CDC Guidelines so everybody may safely enjoy this momentous occasion. Please join us!

Your Search Committee,

**Sharon Czekner, Kenda Catalini, Wendy Fox, Pete Mohr,
Paul Raszler and Susan Rarich**



“Verso Chat” - Wednesdays at 9am

“Verso” is the Latin word meaning “conversation.” Our lives long for conversation, significant and meaningful connection, with God and each other. We want to discover God’s still-speaking words instilling life into our circumstances.

We’ve been finding inspiration, hope, insight and challenge as we have entered into conversation with one another and with the sacred words of scripture. Over the last few weeks, we’ve had great fun looking deeper through conversation over upcoming lectionary readings for worship as our guide.

Join Pastor Steve and others from our faith family on Wednesday mornings at 9am onsite at St. John’s and on Zoom. You will find the [“Verso Chat” link here](#) and on the website to participate. Let’s study the verses of scripture (verso) and chat about the verses of scripture together.

Lenten Offering “Dollar a Day for Hope!”

In this month’s mailed newsletters was an envelope for the first of two special offerings being received. The first is the Lenten Offering in which you are invited to contribute a “Dollar a Day for Hope!” The 40 days of Lent have traditionally been a time of giving to others in need and supporting ministry that reaches those most marginalized. As you share your gift during this season, perhaps you’ll be able to share \$40. Perhaps this season of hope speaks to you to share more... \$10/day = \$400, or more! We invite you to share in such a way that a great gift of hope is shared to help renew and transform our ministry outreach and prepare for our next steps of ministry activity. It will take all of us doing what we can to make the difference.

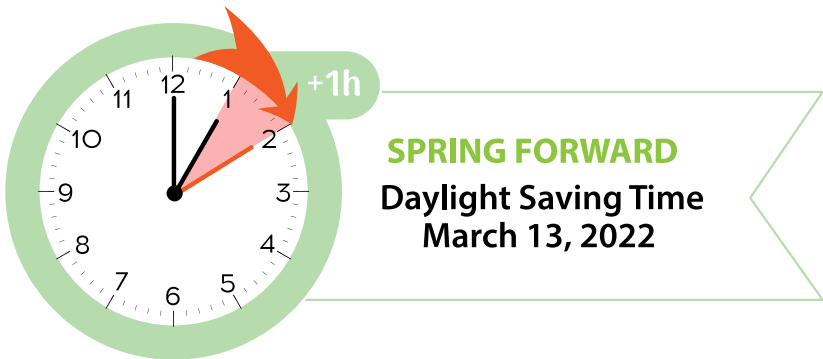
The “Dollar a Day for Hope” Lenten Offering will also be available for you to contribute online through our website by selecting “Contribute” and making a secure donation. Select the “Lenten Offering” from the menu of fund options. Lenten Offerings will be received through March to Easter Sunday, April 17.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - March 27

Our second special offering is the first of the “5 for 5” denominational support-giving opportunities of the United Church of Christ throughout the year, providing support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing (Disaster Relief, March), Strengthen The Church (Church Vitality, Pentecost, June), Neighbors In Need (World Communion Sunday, October) and The Christmas Fund (Retired Clergy, December). One Great Hour of Sharing is 1 of 5 such special offerings in Our Church’s Wider Mission (often referred to as OCWM).

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Offering Envelopes for OGHS will be shared in worship on March 20 and 27 to receive this special gift. For those who wish to make an electronic contribution, please do so using our website and select the “One Great Hour of Sharing” from the menu of fund options.



Thank-Yous

Thank you and your congregation for your recent gifts in the amounts of \$408.50 and \$145.84 directed to our Jubilee Ministry to the Homeless. We appreciate this generous contribution to the ministry and mission of Zion's Church. Thank you for your continuing support.

-Timothy Flores, Consistory President, Zion's UCC

Thank you for your generous donations of \$408.50 from your craft sales and \$145.84 from your fundraising sales to the Sixth Street Shelter. We sincerely appreciate the partnership of friends like you as we help families improve their stability, self-sufficiency, resilience and quality of life. You are an important part of our work, and we are truly grateful for your involvement and support.

-Julie Huber, Development Officer, Sixth Street Shelter

Thank you for the very generous donations of \$408.50 and \$145.84 in support of our very important programs. Your generosity will continue to help Valley Youth House in its mission to become the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections. Our positive outcomes and legacy would not be possible without the support of thoughtful people like you.

-Christina Schoemaker, Senior VP of Development,
Grants & Marketing, Valley Youth House

Many thanks to everyone who supported Phoebe's Operation Santa with Century Café and Beauty Salon Gift Certificates in the amount of \$320. This beloved holiday tradition ensured every senior at Phoebe received a holiday gift. Donors like you are vital to Phoebe's mission to enrich the lives of our seniors, their families, and the communities we serve.

-Stacey Prohaska, Exec. Dir. of Philanthropy, Phoebe Ministries



Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words,
 Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude,
 Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience,
 Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope,
 Fast from worries ... and have trust in God,
 Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity,
 Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful,
 Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy,
 Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others,
 Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled,
 Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen!

This message was given some time ago by Pope Francis, who has been the head of the Catholic Church since 2013. Fasting takes on a whole new meaning after reading the list of ways we can “give up” things—the result of which is actually “doing” something good for both ourselves and for others.

Personal Items Needed

As their group service project, this year’s Confirmation Class is sponsoring a Toiletry Drive through Sunday, March 27 to support the ministry and mission of The Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Because their Drop-in Center provides a shower for those in need, we are asking for donations of:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Hand/Body Lotion
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant

Trial/hotel sizes are preferred but regular-size bottles are also appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

Easter & Spring Crafts for Sale

Bunnies, chicks and baskets, plus a whole lot more Easter items are available for sale thanks to our talented Crafters Group. Please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com to arrange pick-up or delivery.

Here is a list of some of the handmade craft items we have:

- Kitchen Towels
- Dishcloths
- Potholders
- Shopping Bags
- Bread Cloths
- Clothes Pin Bags
- Table Runners
- Fingertip Towels
- Plastic Bag Holders
- Casserole Totes
- Wine Totes
- Bowl Cozies
- Doll Sweaters
- Baby Sweaters
- Baby Burping Bibs
- Baby Bibs
- Cookbooks
- 12-Bean Soup Mix

New craft ideas are always welcome! We are also in need of buttons - 1" or larger.



Baseball Anyone?

St. John's has reserved the IronPigs Party Porch for Saturday, July 9th. Ticket price remains the same as in the past years, \$37, which includes great seats for the game, a picnic buffet, soft drinks and bottled water, and post-game fireworks.

Contact Tom Moyer (610) 432-3372 for reservations.

Also, this summer... we have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand for the IronPigs vs. Syracuse Mets game.

Mark your calendar — Thursday, August 4, at 7:05pm. Cost will still be \$12 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ball-park credit, and a raffle ticket.

While it is too early to know of specific game-night give-aways, we know that hotdogs will again be \$1 at the game.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com

Basket Social in the Pavilion

Saturday May 21, 2022, 9am to 12. Drawing will be at noon. Cost for a sheet of 26 tickets will be \$5.

We are looking for basket donations. A basket can be filled with items: baking supplies, gift cards, a stack of books, money trees, lottery tickets, a Vera Bradley bag, even a potted plant. No alcohol, please.

The drop-off time will be Sunday May 15, right after church, in the pavilion parking lot and Friday May 20 from 5 to 7pm.

We ask if you can't make either of these times or have any questions, see Kenda Catalini or call her cell (484) 358-7453.

You do not have to be present to win. Further details to come.



“Our Faith Home” Gathering Groups in 2022

Let’s try this again... 3rd time is a charm!

The recent pandemic conditions required us to postpone our planned gatherings in January and February, so now we are looking forward to March and April! Sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office to sign up to attend one of 22 possible Our Faith Home gatherings in March and more in April if needed! We want everyone from St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, to have the opportunity to be part of one of these gatherings! Pastor Steve will be attending 22 events, and is asking for each of us to be part of 1 of the Our Faith Home events.

Consistory members will be serving as “hosts” of gatherings to be held in their homes, onsite at St. John’s, in other group locations, or Zoom gatherings. We invite you to participate and sign up to take part in one of these gathering conversations with a small group of 8-10 people. Join Pastor Steve in a time to know each other better and share our stories, our greatest hopes, biggest dreams, favorite memories, and deepest longings for St. John’s.

Pastor Steve wants to meet in small “gathering groups,” hosted by Consistory members with the congregation in small groups or 6-8 persons at the homes of our church leadership, at St. John’s or, if safety requirements demand, via online gatherings. We are a “Whatever it takes” congregation! So by whatever means, let’s share ourselves and our stories!

Sign-up sheets will be available with dates and locations of gatherings beginning March 2. You may also call the Church Office to sign up by phone. We will have a wide variety of times and opportunities for your convenience. Plan now to be part of an “Our Faith Home” Gathering Group!

Rev. Alan Miller

Supporting In Prayer and Hope



Please keep Rev. Alan Miller and wife, Candy, in prayer in the coming months. Alan is the much loved former Conference Minister of the Penn NE Conference and has been enduring significant health concerns for some time. He and Candy have their membership at St. John's UCC, Fullerton, even as they now live in North Carolina to be nearer family. A recent troubling diagnosis means more difficult treatments to come. Your prayers and notes of support during this Lenten "Season of Hope" will be of great support!

St. John's Prayer Chain Group

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 always welcome new participation. Please contact Kim Hillegass (610) 360-7895 or kim1257@aol.com and we will gladly add you to the group.

Most of our communications are done by email (except with God) 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.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton Street in Allentown. We plan to restart our meetings again on March 5 at 8:30am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (810) 303.6123 or email QVRRBold@aol.com

Celebrating Lent

“A Holy Lent: Memories of a Season of Hope!”

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2! This year, conditions permitting, we hope to begin expanding our activities by the end of March and into April to include some social connections and times for fellowship and meals. As we welcome this Season of Hope, our faith journey will center around “The Road to the Empty Tomb!” We do not go from “Hosanna!” to “Christ is risen!” The journey takes us through a season which prepares us for the great hope we have in celebrating that God’s LOVE always has the last word!

Our hope is found in a faith that carries us through “the ashes of our mortal lives,” through “the valley of the shadow,” and to the spirit that cries out, “It is finished!” Yet our season of hope does not end there. We are an Easter people and our hope carries us beyond the pains of life and death to the promise of the empty tomb! Participate in this “Season of Hope” with us!



- ✓ **“Ash & Dash”** - Receive the Imposition of Ashes in your car
March 2, 8-9am & 4-5pm
- ✓ **“Ash Wednesday Taize Service”** - Song, Scripture, Ashes
March 2, 7pm
- ✓ **Mon/Wed/Fri Devotionals - New Online Devotional Meditations**
from Pastor Steve, Pastor Dave, Pastor Becky, Pastor Evelyn, Pastor Becca
and other clergy from our congregation, sharing memories of a Lenten
season which was transforming and gave renewed hope.
- ✓ **5G Connection Class - New member welcoming**
April 3 & 10 following worship and being received in covenant on
April 17, Easter Sunday.

Holy Week - April 10-17

- ✓ Palm Sunday, April 10, Palm Processional for All
- ✓ Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7pm Service of Holy Communion with Hand Washing
- ✓ Good Friday, April 15, 7pm Tenebrae (Service of Darkness)
- ✓ Easter Sunrise Service, April 17, 7am Pavillion Sunrise Service
- ✓ Easter Worship Services, April 17 (Service times to be announced)
Receiving new persons in covenant!

Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Elaine Lentz
Anita Beil	Jean Litzenberger
Jean Coombe	Roy Luckenbill
Sandra Diefenderfer	Karen Moyer
Susan Felegy	Frank Nolt
Sally Gibson	Marilyn Piskula
Roberta Haberern	Marietta Seyfried
Sylvia Hafer	Elearnor Smith
Lucille Hicks	Bert Smith
Geraldine Keim	Peggy Snyder
Adrienne Kiesbar	David (Tiny) Walters
Emma Repp Kuczek	Ethel Weiland

To protect privacy, please contact the Church office for a listing with mailing addresses.





The next meeting for the Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be March 22nd at 6:30pm in Fox Hall.

The theme will be TEAS AND CHEESE as presented by DonnaLee Yeattes. Her expert knowledge of all things tea will explain how to pair tea with cheese together in the tastiest fashion.

Please join us ladies as we gather for an evening of tea-ology, tasting and time together! Please remember to enter through the elevator entrance and wear your very best tea party masks.

-Colleen Kulhamer

Help St. John's while Shopping

Giant and Weis gift cards are available for purchase in a variety of denominations. The church receives a percentage back from these purchases. Cards are available weekdays through Debbie in the church office (610) 264-8421 or can be purchased on Sundays, at church through Cheryl Weaver or Tom Moyer. These can be used for your weekly grocery purchases or make nice gifts as well.

Checks for the gift cards are to be made out to St. John's UCC Fullerton. If you have any difficulties obtaining them either of these two ways, please contact Cheryl Weaver.

Redner's Receipt Tape

Please continue to use your Redner's card and save your register receipts for the church. The entire receipt needs to be submitted or we will not receive any reimbursement from them. We recently received a check for \$95.78 from Redner's.

Please turn your tapes into 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. We now have a basket in the back of the sanctuary to put your receipt inside.

Bus Trip

St. John's will be running a bus to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster to view its new production, "David".

The trip will be on Wednesday, July 6th. We will leave the Church at 8am for the 11 am show, then go to nearby Shady Maple for their wonderful smorgasbord lunch. The cost will be \$120, which includes show tickets, bus costs, lunch, taxes, and tips.

Please make reservations ASAP with Tom Moyer (610) 432-3372, as the bus usually fills up quickly.



Lehigh Valley Phantoms Hockey Outing Rescheduled

We needed at least 20 people to make a group reservation for tickets, so we will try again either next season or later this year.

If you are a hockey fan and interested to gather a group, contact Carole Flores by e-mail at mistycbear1263@gmail.com or by calling (610) 770-0472.

Church Envelopes - Are you using them?

If you are already giving electronically and still wish to use printed church envelopes, please call the church office so we can arrange to have them sent to you. Otherwise, to conserve resources in 2022, we will discontinue sending by default.

5G Connection Class

What is a 5G Connection all about? Having a strong connection is fundamental when we think about our phones, sharing information, communicating, live streaming... you name it, the better the connection the more enjoyable the experience of participating. We find the same when we think about our experience of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton faith community! The greater our connection, the greater our experience.

Whether you've been part of the church family for decades or a recent participant or online viewer, we want every person to have a great connection. Everyone is invited to "upgrade" your connection and take part in our 5G Connection Class, where we will explore what it means to:

- G**ather in faith and fellowship,
- G**ain understanding and relationships,
- G**ive in time, talent and treasure,
- G**row through acts of compassion and service,
- G**o! Sharing our life and love, grace and hope!

The 5G Connection Class will be held over two consecutive Sundays, April 3 and 10, following worship. Participants will have the opportunity to be received in covenant relationship in worship on Easter Sunday, April 17. If you've never made the decision to "be a member" of St. John's, or if you've wanted to do so and didn't know what's involved, now is your opportunity!

Contact the Church Office or speak with Pastor Steve to learn more if you're interested in being part of the 5G Connection Class. Classes will be offered 3-4 times a year for your participation. The link to participate online is on the church website under Church Happenings.

Everyone is welcome to learn more!

St. John's Email List

Periodically, we send emails to provide information about church events. If you would like to be added to the list to receive these email announcements, please provide your email address to the church office at (610) 264-8421 or sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com

In Case of Bad Weather...

If the church has to cancel its Sunday services due to inclement weather, the closing will be listed on Channel 69 News or you can go to their website www.wfmz.com

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. 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, 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!



March Birthdays

3/01	William Dovic Carter Shirk	3/16	Michael Jordan Eleanor Smith
3/02	Lois Gillette Nicholas Santee Lisa Weiner	3/18	Rion McNicholas
3/04	Ned Bateman	3/19	Conrad Beck Donald Schneck
3/05	Carol Geroulo	3/20	Keith Kaider Tina Madus Maggie Marinkovits Melissa Mendiolina
3/06	Patricia Bendekovits Fern Hozza Jason Loch Cynthia Reck Marilyn Reid	3/22	Barbara Bateman Sylvia Hafer Michael Leibensperger
3/07	Sandra Heffelfinger	3/23	George Weaver Ethel Weiland
3/08	Michelle Gutekunst	3/26	Jeffrey Nailor
3/10	Judith Carr Mark Moll	3/27	Jeffrey Eichman
3/11	Alyssa Beckwith	3/28	William Kern
3/12	Ethan Brobst Paul Geissing	3/29	Lucille Hicks Charlie Martin Donald Miller, Jr.
3/13	Becky Beckwith Gianni Russo	3/30	Bradley Beckwith
3/15	Maura Rarich Patricial Warmkessel	3/31	Susan Felegy Shepard Rarich-Lord

If you have an upcoming birthday or notice an omission, please update the church office.



Birth Announcement

On January 11, 2022, George and Sharon Romberger's daughter, Amy Romberger & Daniel Malvasio delivered a 6 pounds 8 oz. and 19" long baby girl. Welcome to the world, Addison Grace Malvasio!





March Wedding Anniversaries

Robert & Nancy Dougherty

3/3/1979

Timothy & Karen Christman

3/5/1977

Matthew & Judith Sommer

3/6/1999

Gary & Janet Black

3/9/1974

Dewey & Donnalee Yeatts

3/9/1991

Joseph & Bettyjane Bonshak

3/14/1963

Dale & Susan Brinker

3/24/1979

If you have an upcoming anniversary or notice an omission, please update the church office.



One Great Hour of Sharing - "Love Remains"

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love." ~1 Corinthians 13:13

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. It's not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGHS, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, Love Remains.

In this newsletter, you will find a special offering envelope for OGHS, which will be received in worship on March 27. If you receive your newsletter by email, please consider contributing by mailing in your donation to the church or giving on-line or by text.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of March, we are collecting canned sweet potatoes for our Easter meal distribution. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or via on-line or text.

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative’s Community Meals

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households starting twice a month from now through December 2022. All are welcome to attend both meals on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6:30pm. The host locations change every time, and they will decide if masks are required and if it is a sit-down or take-out meal. Call the host church to see what guidelines they are following.

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, 3/6*	TBD - No organization is scheduled*	--	--
Tuesday, 3/15	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Sunday, 4/3*	TBD	--	--
Tuesday, 4/19	Commitment to Family & Community	165 Cherry St., Coplay	(610) 261-2233

*As we go to press, there are no host churches for these dates. You can contact Shari Noctor, WCHI Director, at (484) 225-0358 or email her at WhitehallCoplayHunger@gmail.com to learn any updates.

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

Deadline to receive items is Sunday, February 27. Items needed are: Hand towel approximately 15"x28" to 16"x32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber), wash cloth, wide-tooth (only) comb, bath size (only) bar of soap in wrapper, single toothbrush in the package (no toothpaste), fingernail or toenail clipper, standard-size band-aids. You will find a large basket in the coatroom area by the sanctuary to place your items.

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry is held at Zion's UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown. This ministry provides a free hot breakfast (take-out meals only at this time due to Covid) to those who are homeless and to the working poor. Meals are being offered from 7am to 9am on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from now until April.

During last winter season, Jubilee had 164 dedicated volunteers and served more than 4,000 meals to an average of 58 homeless and working poor guests per day. With the recent announcement that Zion's church will be closing in the future, we are not aware of the status of this ministry at this time.

Let's Help Save the Trees

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email instead of postal mail, please contact Deb at the Church office (610) 264-8421 or sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com

2021 Giving Statements

Your 2021 giving statements were emailed to you around the middle of January. If we do not have your e-mail address, your statement is printed for pick-up at the Church at the back of the church. To have your statement mailed to you, please call the Church office.

How did St. John's Family do?

Recent Outreaches	January 2022	January 2021
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,229.80	\$1,410.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$20.00	\$120.00

Pavilion Update

Most of the expenses related to the construction of the pavilion came to an end in 2021. There will still be some things to be done, but these are minor compared to the building costs. Once these are completed, there will a final accounting of our indebtedness.

As we move forward, the church will be dealing with our loan from Cornerstone. To date, that contract has called for only paying interest (during the construction phase) but we will soon transition to paying both principal and interest.

Our outstanding loan balance is about \$85,000 To reflect this change going forward, envelopes will carry an additional line relating to repaying this loan. So, as you consider your offerings for the upcoming year, it is hoped you will be able to help St. John's in meeting this obligation.

Altar Flower Dates Available

March	July	November
6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	6, 13, 20, 27
April	August	December
3, 10, 17, 24	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25
May	September	
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	4, 11, 18, 25	
June	October	
5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	



**St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
JAN 2022**

Income	Electronic	1/2/2022	1/9/2022	1/16/2022	1/23/2022	1/30/2022	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$5,965.36	\$5,001.16	\$545.20	\$894.00	\$3,058.00	\$2,451.00	\$17,914.7
Rental Income--Gross			\$23.50		\$1,187.50		\$1,211.0
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$79.65					\$79.6
Endowment Interest			\$5,670.00				\$5,670.0
Flowers					\$280.00	\$125.00	\$405.0
Christian Education	\$280.00						\$280.0
Special Gifts							\$
Total	\$6,245.36	\$5,080.81	\$6,238.70	\$894.00	\$4,525.50	\$2,576.00	\$25,560.3

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$11,024.20	\$13,377.00	\$(2,352.80)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,265.33	\$9,591.00	\$(1,325.67)
Property	\$3,389.07	\$3,516.00	\$(126.93)
Parish Programs	\$1,358.39	\$3,468.00	\$(2,109.61)
Total	\$24,036.99	\$29,952.00	\$(5,915.01)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$25,560.37	\$25,560.37
Total Expenses	\$24,036.99	\$24,036.99
Net INCOME	\$1,523.38	\$1,523.38

Mission Giving, JAN 2022

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,229.80
Whitehall Food Bank	\$250.00
Total	\$1,479.80

**St John's UCC Fullerton
Fund Balances
For Month Ending, JAN 2022**

Account	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$43,390.59	\$43,419.23	\$28.64
Giant Card Funds	\$1,494.51	\$1,409.51	\$(85.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,460.00	\$2,060.00	\$600.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$46,345.10	\$46,888.74	\$543.64
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$67,382.10	\$70,180.27	\$2,798.17
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,862.57	\$31,862.84	\$0.27
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$99,244.67	\$102,043.11	\$2,798.44
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$539,649.17	\$525,470.65	\$(14,178.52)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$685,238.94	\$674,402.50	\$(10,836.44)
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
TOTAL LIABILITES	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
NET FUND BALANCE	\$599,688.37	\$588,851.93	\$(10,836.44)





Our Staff

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Rev. David Quinn

Visitation Pastor

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Gail Hanzl

Music Director & Organist

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Deb Hoffmann

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Sue Weldner

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Bob Czekner

Sexton

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Christine Bach

Sexton

ironton1@verizon.net

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings</p>	<p>7 6:00pm Re-Opening Task Force: Rm 201 and Zoom 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 10:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm S & F</p>	<p>2 8:00am Ash and Dash 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 4:00pm Ash and Dash 7:00pm Ash Wednesday 8:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 7:00pm Music and Worship: Rm 201 and Zoom</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>5 8:30am Men's Breakfast Group: Ham Tam Restaurant 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>13 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Handbell & Jubilation Choirs 10:40am Confirmation Class: Fox Hall</p>	<p>14 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>15 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Elders Meeting: Rm 201 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>16 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>20 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings 2:00pm Installation Service followed by Reception: Fox Hall</p>	<p>21 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>22 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Lady Peeps: Fox Hall</p>	<p>23 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm "Fun" Raising</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>27 8:00am One Great Hour 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings 10:40am Confirmation Class: Fox Hall</p>	<p>28 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>29 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom</p>	<p>30 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31</p>		