



**FORTRESS  
CHRYST**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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## Observing Black History Month

***“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu***

### A Mostly White Church in a Mostly White Town

While in seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, I served a rural congregation east of the city. The ministers of the area, mostly younger seminary student pastors, decided to have a joint service project for our congregations. There was a county cemetery that had a significant section which was not part of the “perpetual care” where a chain-link fence separated the area from the rest of the well-kept graves. We quickly came to learn that this was the Black section of the cemetery, and that most of those buried there had meager markers or headstones if there was one at all. Originally, the space was completely separated by a small cart path of the two pieces of land, yet over time the two locations to bury the community dead came together, but still remained separated by the fence and unkempt grounds.



Being inexperienced in issues of blatant community racism, we saw no problem with proposing to take down the fence, clean up the grounds, and ask each participating congregation to mow and trim the cemetery once a month. Unknowingly, we stirred the hornets nest of racism, even in a cemetery. This marked a declaratory beginning of my faith transformation in racial justice. I made it my personal mission to tend these graves and contact

community and family members where possible to share about our project and ongoing desire to see all the graves and peoples’ stories respected.

### Racial Justice is our Responsibility

For many who join the movement toward racial justice, a particular moment or experience serves as a catalyst. Something happens that makes it impossible to go along unchanged. But what happens after that moment of conviction? How does a cataclysmic moment become a life-long journey of anti-racist practice? Our collective journey, whether from a moment of awakening and conviction, or through education and exploration to covenant, commitment, and ever-unfolding actions, calls us to be people of ongoing transformation.

Too often throughout history, we see people of faith complacent and complicit in the face of racism. It seems clear that our church community should have felt called to confront racism before the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. How could it take such gruesome and violent cruelty, videoed for all to see, to make us care enough to dig deeper? Sadly, his death remains one of thousands upon thousands to which we’ve become accustomed over the decades and centuries of our nation, and in the global community.

As the decades have gone by, from the years of slavery to the Civil War and reconstruction era, to the continuing days of Jim Crow laws and systemic white supremacy culture, to the Civil Rights Movement and the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others, to the awareness of inequities in all our systems of life which perpetuated a culture of inequality, the church has been both an agent of change and a source of resistance. We have also too often stood in the way of the very progress and liberation we said we wanted to eradicate. We find ourselves in similar places still today.

While we may not all agree and be of one mind, we can all seek the mind of Christ and look to Jesus’ own example of justice and inclusion, bringing the least and most marginalized of his day to the open table of grace and redemption. We still have much to learn, much to confess, much to correct and much to bring to life as we seek to do the work of creating places for ALL God’s children to be honored and celebrated. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” This month as we observe Black History Month, I welcome you to the following prayer from the organization called “enfleshed,” clergy and laity offering spiritual nourishment for collective liberation:

**Holy One, our Guide and Journey Companion,  
though we may be quick to pray for your  
justice to roll down like waters, we can be slow  
to accept what that may require of us.**

**We struggle – is justice sweeter than security,  
than survival, than power, or comfort?**

**...On this day, and always, wherever white supremacy  
rears its ugly, evil head, in rallies, in words, in norms,  
in prayers, in institutions, in relationships, let nothing  
take precedence over our commitment to Love – Love  
that overturns evil, Love that protects, Love that lays  
down its life for its friends, Love that acts in solidarity,  
Love that refuses to compromise on the belovedness  
of your people, Love that confronts, Love that heals,  
Love that looks inward, Love that shuts down hatred.**

**May our prayers for your justice be enfolded in our  
minds, our bodies, our hearts, our commitments. Amen.**

For full prayer, see: <https://enfleshed.com/liturg/addressing-white-supremacy/>



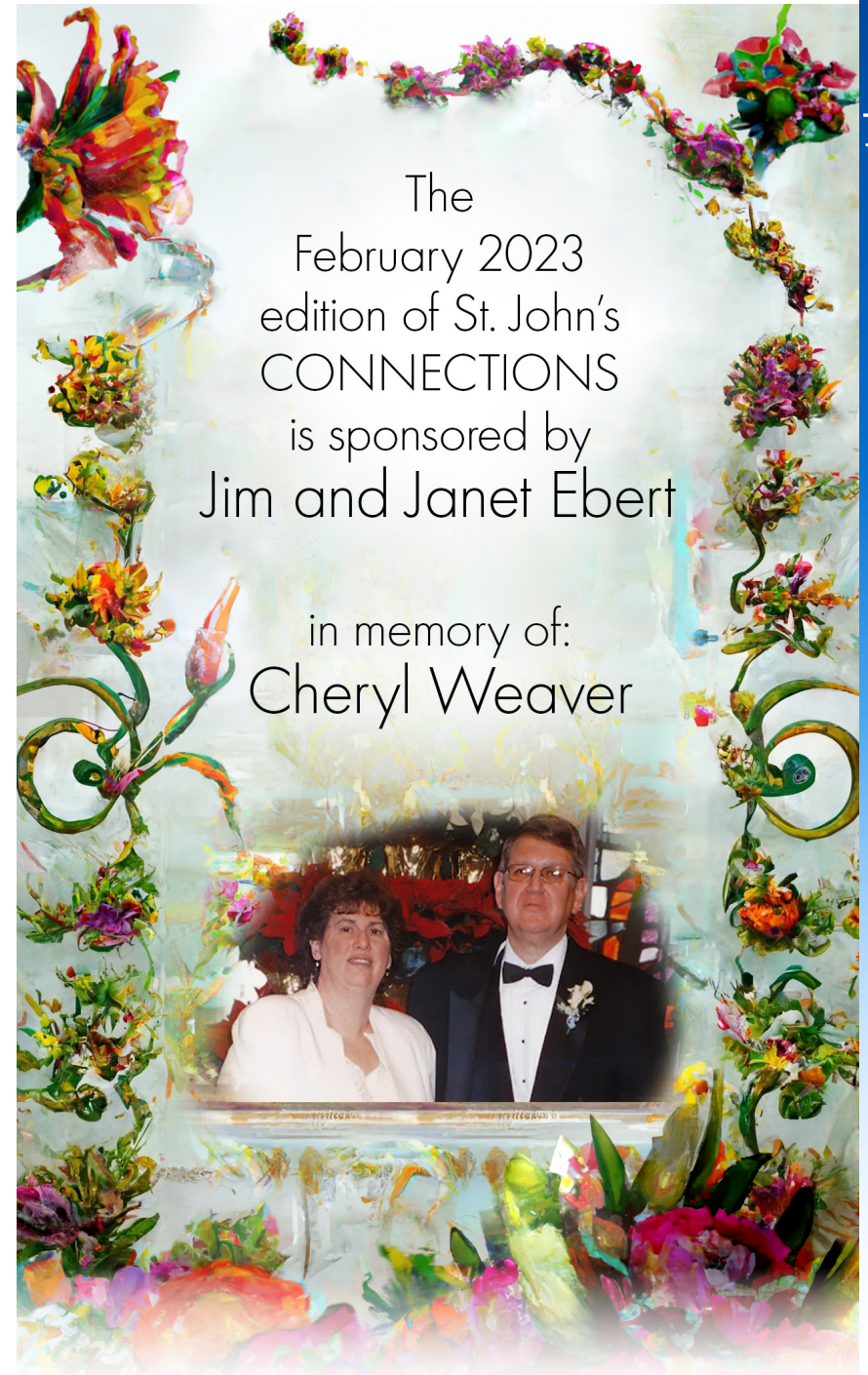
May our journey of inclusion  
stir us, inspire us, and move us to  
break down barriers of division and  
open wide the faith to "Worship,  
Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!"

A blessed new year to us all as  
we "Worship, Love and Serve  
~ No Matter What!"

Yours in grace and hope,

*Steve Davis*

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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## On The Cover...



**FORTRESS CHRYST**  
 is the daughter of Tom and Kay Chryst. She has been a member of St. John's since she was confirmed in May 2022.

She is a freshman at Emmaus High School where she has made the Principal's Honor Roll.

She enjoys helping with the Young Children's Sunday School Class. She aspires to either become a Golf Pro or major in Early Childhood Education.

In the coming year, the covers of CONNECTIONS will feature photos of our St John's people.

You may contacted to be featured in the church newsletter, but don't worry! Just write a short, 2-3 sentence bio about yourself. Focus on an interesting fact or two that you think others would find entertaining or unique. This could include hobbies, talents, or special skills that you have. You can mention what brought you to St John's. Lastly, end with a fun and friendly phrase that captures your personality. Here are some examples:

**"John Smith has been a member of the church for 10 years. In his free time he enjoys playing golf and reading books.**

**"Jane Doe has been attending the church for 5 years and loves to volunteer in the community. She also enjoys cooking and spending time with her family.**

**"Jim Johnson has been a part of the church for 15 years and loves to help others. He enjoys playing guitar and going on hikes in his free time."**

Have fun and don't be afraid to be creative!

## Music at St. John's

A hymn is an expression of worship—our glad and grateful acknowledgment of the “worth-ship” of Almighty God, our confession of our own creatureliness before our Creator, our bowing before his transcendence. Hymns are a celebration of who and what God is and of what he has done— songs of praise, thanksgiving, and joy in God. Christians sing hymns because our God is worthy to be praised.



The words of a hymn are the most important aspect, and good music should enhance and strengthen the message conveyed by the words. The best tunes for a hymn are those that help worshipers connect with the text, as it is the words, not the music, that determine the worth of a hymn.

What are some hymns that have left this impression on us? Would Christmas Eve be the same without singing “O Come All Ye Faithful” or “Silent Night”? How about Good Friday and the singing of “Were You There?” or Easter Sunday singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today?”

Music and hymns are always changing, always evolving. Melodies and texts leave lasting impressions on the singers and listeners of these hymns. They tell a story, and help us in something even more, — prayer!

Currently at St. John's, we use the New Century Hymnal as our main hymnal. As we face a new year, one opportunity for us as a congregation is an evaluation of how to grow together musically as a congregation and that includes thinking about how we use our hymnal.

So, members of the congregation, I ask for your feedback! Here is a little survey!

- What do you like about the New Century Hymnal?
- Do you like the hymnal because it is familiar?
- What do you not like about this hymnal?
- Do you feel learning new hymns allows the congregation to grow musically and spiritually?
- Do you feel the hymnal is utilized to it's fullest potential?

You can respond to these questions using this form:

<https://bit.ly/3IOSoxm>

As we embark on this new year together, may your feedback concerning our hymnal assist in helping create memorable and meaningful services for our worshiping community.

Musically Yours,  
Patrick Sandt



St. John's UCC Fullerton  
is proud to welcome

**The Moravian University Choir**

2pm Sunday, March 26

Please join us for  
a wonderful afternoon  
of music with light  
refreshments to follow.

All are welcome and  
invited to attend!

## Stewardship/Donations

### Take a Step Up - Opportunities to Serve

#### Become an "Automatic Contributor"

**Currently, 49 giving units participating.**

"Love is in the air!" So is the crisp chill of winter. We continue to work at repaying our "loan" to ourselves with our Furnace Loan contributions. At the current rate of generosity, we should fully repay our reserve fund by Spring 2024. Thank you for your generosity each month!

As with all the opportunities to contribute to the mission and ministry of St. John's, we invite you to seriously consider trying out the QR Code for easy giving. Use your cell phone and see how easy it is to make an online payment as you contribute to meaningful ministry actions.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee strongly encourages becoming an "automatic contributor" in your support of these ministries. We still have only 49 giving units utilizing this service. It makes a tremendous difference in the monthly cash flow when we know the contributions will be coming to meet our expenses. You can make this happen!

We offer the ease of using the QR Code found in our worship bulletin, on the worship slides, and in other locations around the church! If you need help getting set up or want to know more, please contact the Church Office or visit with Tom Moyer or Rev. Steve Davis. Become an "Automatic Contributor" today and help the church no matter where you may be on a Sunday morning!

### COVID, Flu, RSV and Showing Care

As we continue to navigate the ongoing public health concerns, it's important to remember that we are not alone in this journey. The flu and RSV season, as well as the emergence of new COVID variants, can be daunting, but we can take comfort in knowing that we are a community of support for one another.

One of the most effective ways to protect ourselves and our community is by getting vaccinated. This not only helps protect ourselves, but also those around us, especially those who are more vulnerable, such as the elderly.

As we reflect on our practices of worship and sharing our gifts, let us also remember that it is not only about our own preferences, but about the well-being of our whole community. We encourage everyone to have open dialogue and to continue to discern together how we can best be a supportive and healthy community.

In this difficult time, let us hold on to hope and continue to take care of ourselves and each other, and trust in the power of our community to overcome this challenge.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 2023

#### Potluck and Meeting at Noon in Fox Hall

Plan now to be present for our Annual Congregational Meeting to review reports from 2022, celebrate our ministry and hear proposals for better connecting in our congregation and community.



Following the 10:45 worship service, around noon, we will enjoy a potluck meal in Fox Hall. We will have "Ministry Fair" presentations by many of our committees and ministry task groups to share their work and how we can become involved. Information regarding bylaw updates or other proposals and your reports will be available through the [Annual Report which will be published and online](#) for our consideration in advance.

This important gathering and our conversations will give us the opportunity to consider implications and needed next steps for our financial health and next steps in ministry. Join us as we share together, review and look forward to where God is leading us to "Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!"

## Youth Activities for Sunday Mornings and More



Tyler Shankweiler is our newest Youth Deacon serving in 2023! He is looking for other youth and adults to get in on the conversation to create something new for St. John's Youth. Many times the busy pace of school, extra-curricular and family activities fill up schedules once confirmation activities conclude. We want the

Youth of St. John's to enjoy a warm and welcoming place to be with each other on Sunday mornings. Currently, ALL Youth are welcome to participate in individual class sessions with the Confirmands (6th, 7th & 8th graders) during the 9:30 am hour in Youth Room, 301. However, we'd like to create something more!

Join Tyler and caring adults committed to supporting our Youth as we visit over the next several weeks during the Sunday Social Hour in Fox Hall. Come have something to drink and some delicious morning treats and enjoy conversation with each other around the tables. Plans are also being made to have a monthly youth event, and of course, there will be great food to share! If you're interested in taking part in something new, please visit with our newest Youth Deacon, Tyler Shankweiler, or Consistory President, Bill Fink, or Brian Fisher. Let's get the party started and build our relationships!

Show your "No Matter What!" spirit as we grow together.

### Blessed to Be a Blessing - Children's Faith Formation

Faith Formation for our children continues to touch young lives and adult hearts as well! We are grateful for those who have stepped up to lead and assist in this vital outreach to our younger disciples. "Blessed to Be a Blessing" offers a weekly time of ritual through our sacred circle, a Bible story and craft and some other goodies for children, age 4 - 6th grade. This group gathers in Room 101 at

9:30am. Adult leaders and helpers are needed for January - May as we seek to sustain and expand this vital ministry to our youngest followers of Christ.

Please visit with Rev. Becca Stephens to learn more about how you can help with this vital ministry with our young people, visit the class and see what takes place, then volunteer for one Sunday a month to help with the first quarter of 2023.

### Sundays Social Hour Continues - 9:30am in Fox Hall

Many thanks and much appreciation to Kenda and Joe Catalini, Colleen Kulhamer, Michelle and Michael Gutekunst, Cindy Reck, Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner and the Healthcare Committee for hosting one of our social times! We continue to encourage building relationships and enjoying social time together between the two worship services. Join us!

Sign up this week to host a Sunday Social Hour. Different individuals, ministry groups, and Faith Formation classes are invited to "Host" a social hour. Use the sign up sheet in the Parlor or contact the Church Office if you, your class, group, or committee would like to host one of our Sunday Social Hour events! If you're not currently in an adult class or group during the 9:30 hour, join us for refreshments, get to know each other and mingle as we meet in the middle!



## Kids in Worship

A recent Facebook post shared the following:

### BRING THEM TO CHURCH!

Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lie on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior, because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world may teach them that it is acceptable to not be religious, rather than actively engaging in their spiritual well-being. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job.



### BRING THEM TO CHURCH!

Matthew 18:5-6 "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea." Teaching kids is a huge responsibility. We must take it seriously and do it well. Prepare well, speak truth, and remember they are God's kids first.

In addition to our Children's Message during the 10:45am Sunday worship service, a kids table with "Busy Bags" and other fun supplies is set up in the Parlor for any who need some extra activities. Room 201 is open for kids and parents who need to step out from the sanctuary. We will have the worship service livestream available in Room 201 during the 10:45 worship. Enjoy and receive our kids in worship with joy as Jesus did!

## Worship In February

Lent begins on **ASH WEDNESDAY - February 22**

8-9:00am & 4-5:00pm

### "Ash & Dash"

Come to the St. John's parking area on the south side of Grape Street to receive ashes and a blessing to begin your Lenten spiritual journey. Help welcome others to share with us in this season of reflection, bringing our questions to God. Ashes will be shared in the evening worship service as well.

6:00pm and Program (7:00pm)

### "Soup & Bread" Dinners

Gather together in Fox Hall on Wednesday evenings in Lent and enjoy a variety of "Soup & Bread" options for our shared meal! Sign up sheets to bring a pot of soup or bread will be available in the Church Parlor, or you can call or email the Church Office to sign up.



Each Wednesday evening, we will have a meal together, followed by a program of a devotional and music (Feb. 22, Mar. 8 and 22) or participating in the Penn NE Conference UCC program study with other UCC congregations and individuals (March 1, 15 and 29).

This will be available through Zoom with the Link coming soon. Look on the church website and in worship bulletins for more information.





**POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS**

The Lady PEEPS will be meeting Tuesday February 28th at 6:30pm in Fox Hall! Our guest speaker will be our very own Pastor Steve! The theme will be A Different Kind of Love Story - My journey. Come join us for this special evening as Pastor Steve shares his story of finding himself and finding the love of his life. Ladies, if you have never been to a Lady PEEPS meeting, come and check us out and enjoy a relaxing evening together with caring friends! Refreshments will be served. Please use the elevator entrance.

### 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 St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on February 4 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 (610) 393-6123 or email at [QVRRBold@aol.com](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com)

### A Word from the Crafters

Thank you to everyone who purchased craft items in 2022. With a profit of \$1132.00, the Mission Committee designated these funds go to the following organizations: Lehigh Conference of Churches (General Fund) and Sixth Street Shelter (Allentown Campus)—\$566.00 to each.

During these winter months, keep in mind we have 12-Bean Soup Mix available for sale at \$4.00 each and don't forget our Church Cookbook for \$10.00. Our crafts are available for sale all year long. You can contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email her at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) to make your purchases.

### IronPigs Party Porch + Game Scheduled for 2023

**Friday, May 26th at 7:05pm (Memorial Day weekend)**

Price - \$38 (Up \$1 from last few seasons)

Make reservations with Tom Moyer: [tommoyer54@gmail.com](mailto:tommoyer54@gmail.com)

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand for the IronPigs vs. Buffalo Bisons game. Game day is Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05pm. Cost will still be \$13 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ball park credit, and raffle ticket. While it is too early to know of any give-aways, we know that it is also Dollar Dog Night. So, mark your calendar—we won't be taking reservations and payment until Spring. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)

**St. John's  
Technical  
Artistic  
Resources**



The STARs committee is your group of tech-savvy, creative folks who assemble the weekly livestream of the worship service. Welcome to the booth, Elijah Fox! [starsofstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:starsofstjohns@gmail.com)



## Verso Chat Bible Study Group

### Expanding Opportunity with Verso Chat Bible Study

Would you like to know more about the weekly readings of scripture we share in worship? Would an afternoon or evening study better fit your life schedule? Pastor Steve is open to hosting a second group to better accommodate people's varying schedules and offer more opportunities to get connected with God and each other. If you'd be interested in being part of a new group, please send Pastor Steve an email ([sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org)) and let him know what days and times of the week might best work for you in the new year.

You're welcome to participate in fun and conversation as we explore the lectionary readings for upcoming worship services as a study opportunity. ALL are welcome to drop in and participate any time you are available. Each week is its own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words. "Verso" is the Latin word meaning "conversation," and you're invited to join the conversation with God and each other.

Our current group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am onsite at St. John's and on Zoom. If you're interested in being part of an afternoon or evening group, please contact Pastor Steve. You will find the "Verso Chat" link below and on the website to participate. Let's study and chat about the verses of scripture together!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571428042>

## Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Ron Glass	Frank Nolt
Anita Beil	Roberta Haberern	Marilyn Piskula
Clarence Biehn	Lucille Hicks	Marietta Seyfried
Jim Carr	Geraldine Keim	Eleanor Smith
Carl Case	Adrienne Kiesbar	Bert Smith
Jean Coombe	Emma Repp Kuczek	Peggy Snyder
Sandra Diefenderfer	Elaine Lentz	Nancy Weaver
Shirley Downing	Jean Litzenberger	Bonnie Weikel
Susan Felegy	Roy Luckenbill	
Jean Fischl	Dale Millham	
Milton Focht	Karen Moyer	

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



*Deacon to his wife: "I just heard our OCD Pastor is planning his retirement - he wants to live in a retirement home called Timely Manor."*

### Deadline for March Newsletter

If you are planning to contribute an article for the March newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to our new address - [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, February 12.

Photos for your article should be included as attachments to your email. Please do not embed them in the file.

Authors: some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

## Creating A New Ritual

### Water Gathering Reminder On Vacations

Thanks to those who have already been bringing small bottles of water from your travels in 2022. We will soon be handing out small plastic bottles during the season of Lent for you to collect a sample of water from your journeys across the country and around the world in 2023. Bring it back and give it to Pastor Steve for safe keeping. During the year, we will remind you to continue this activity. The water will be received, purified and then next Fall on our "Gathering Sunday," we will begin using this water for our celebrations of baptism and other sacred moments in worship. Thank you in advance for helping create a new ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world.



## Congregational Caring And Support

We have received many notes of appreciation from those who received the Christmas Gift Bags from our Visitation Ministry Team! Thank you again for your generous support, helping us reach out to our homebound and others who need that special touch of love and care from St. John's.

We all appreciate the simple gestures and kindnesses shown us by people who let us know we are being thought of, prayed for and appreciated as part of the St. John's family. Whether by receiving a call or card, having someone express gratitude for our participation in leading or simply being one of the faithful who attend, all of us appreciate the signs of love and support shared.

As we work to re-imagine our visitation and congregational care support, we invite you to be part of the difference we make together. Currently, St. John's has an amazing group of people committed to extending care to our homebound members. There are 28 people who receive monthly encouragement, calls, visits and other acts of love. We could not be the caring community we are without these dedicated volunteers sharing their gifts of support.

St. John's has 346 family units. We don't always see them in worship or participating in activities as we did in years past, and we want to change that.

We ask for you to be part of the conversation as well at the February Annual Meeting. We will hear some ideas of how we hope to move forward with a new model engaging the congregation in an intentional outreach of support to the whole congregation, in addition to our homebound. We want to be sure we extend our care to those who are able to be present, those who worship and participate online, and those who cannot be present, yet still cherish their relationships made here. Help us discern next steps together by being part of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5!

## February Birthdays

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

2/1 ..... Connor Landis Gavin Phillips	2/13 ..... Paul E Geissinger Jr Eleanor O'Donnell Kaylee Pagan
2/2 ..... Aubrey Beckwith Robert Saeger	2/14 ..... Dolly Holler Aaron Mill
2/4 ..... Robert Beckwith Barbara Begel Dewey Yeatts	2/15 ..... Richard Baatz Sr. Conner Strauss
2/4 ..... Susan Rarich	2/16 ..... Gerald Yanavok
2/5 ..... Michelle Brobst Christopher Rowe	2/17 ..... Janice Blaker Rev George Eckstein Troy Rothrock
2/6 ..... Andrew Doyle Susan Imboden	2/18 ..... Marion DeMilio
2/7 ..... Halie Holderman Peter Mohr Eric Romberger	2/19 ..... Sandy Koch
2/8 ..... Brian Fisher Aubree Jordan	2/20 ..... Joseph Catalini Ashley Kuhns Donna Lynch
2/9 ..... Kailey Gober	2/21 ..... Kelly Weiner
2/10 ..... Owen Eberhart Jr Todd Heffelfinger Timothy Ott Bruce Pope Timothy Sommer Brian Strauss Janet Williams	2/22 ..... Michelle Cortright Shirley Green
2/11 ..... Janet Ebert George Williams	2/23 ..... Emilie Dumbach Robert Scheirer
2/12 ..... William Dovico	2/24 ..... Mary Jane Ott Elizabeth Reck Lyla Schmoyer
	2/25 ..... Thomas Chryst
	2/26 ..... Wayne Lichtenwalner
	2/28 ..... Anthony DeMilio Heather Santee



## February Wedding Anniversaries

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

Edward & Cynthia Sommers 2/10/1973	Barrie & Judith Carr 2/21/1981
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### Knauss Family Loaded Potato Soup Recipe

- 8 Peeled & cubed cooked potatoes
- 1/2 Cup butter
- 1/2 Cup flour
- 8 Cups of milk
- 1/4 Cup or medium size onion
- 1 [8 Oz.] Container of sour cream
- 1/2 Cup or a bit more cheddar cheese

Cook your potatoes and onions, drain and set aside.

In another pot melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth, gradually stir in milk. Careful not to burn the milk! Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes or until slightly thickened.

Stir in the potatoes and onions and cook for 5 or 10 minutes. Stir in the sour cream and cheddar cheese until melted and well blended. Season with salt & pepper (I add parsley).

I got a lot of compliments on this soup I brought for the pot luck dinner for Pastor Dave. It is sad to see Pastor Dave leave us, but may God always bless him!

Enjoy & thanks for all the compliments!!!  
Roger & Mary Ann Knauss



## Ukraine Relief Fund

### War in Ukraine – One Year Later

February 24 marks the first anniversary of Russia’s unprovoked attack on the Ukraine.

Thousands of people, including children, have been killed or injured. People have been displaced and families torn apart. Homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals have been destroyed or under constant missile attacks. Yet the resiliency and tenacity of the Ukrainian people never wavered.

As the war ravages on, there is no end in sight. Our help is still needed. Enclosed with this newsletter is a special offering envelope for the Ukraine Relief Fund for you to continue your support of the Ukrainian people. You can also give your donation on-line or by text-giving.

We are happy to report that for the month of December, \$220 was sent to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Donations in February will go to World Central Kitchen.

## Whitehall Food Pantry

Donations needed for February: spaghetti sauce, pasta, and canned fruit. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always welcomed. Contact Gary Black at (610) 262-6114 or email [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) if you would like to volunteer to help at the food pantry

## Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—Dine-in Only. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, 2/5	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. 5th St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, 2/21	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661
Sunday, 3/5	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Tuesday, 3/21	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695

## How Did St. John’s Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	Dec 2022	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,153.00	\$14,815.90	\$17,616.30	\$19,250.95
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$280.00	\$1,700.00	\$4,745.00	\$3,333.00
Hurricane Relief Fund	\$13.20	\$375.00	N/A	N/A
Ukraine Relief Fund	\$220.00	\$3,875.00	N/A	N/A
Christmas Fund	\$565.00	\$585.00	\$666.80	\$585.00
Mitten Tree – Phoebe	\$25.00	\$620.00	\$320.00	\$600.00
Mitten Tree - VYH	\$25.00	\$680.00	\$350.00	\$600.00
Bethlehem Emergency Shelter *	\$451.00	\$451.00	N/A	N/A

\* Free-will offering from the “Service of the Nativity” concert. Mission Outreach giving for December 2022 totaled \$2,732.20

## Thank You

Dear Friends St. John's United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your recent donations to the United Church of Christ. Both your gifts of \$120.00 for disaster relief in Ukraine and your gift of \$375.00 for hurricane disaster relief were received. Through your gifts, families who have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support. Your gifts enable the church to be present with people amid catastrophic and life-challenging situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance.

In faith,  
**Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer**  
General Minister & President  
United Church of Christ

Thank you for St. John's UCC Fullerton's generous donation of \$100.00 to support Project HOPE's life changing work in the Ukraine. For more than 60 years, Project HOPE has transformed the health and well-being of people and communities around the globe. We respond to health crisis by rapidly deploying trained, multidisciplinary teams, and emergency supplies that reach the most affected populations. We are especially thankful to our donors, without whom our work would not be possible. Thank you for your support.

With sincere gratitude,  
**Rabih Torbay**  
President & CEO  
Project HOPE

On behalf of World Central Kitchen, I want to thank St. John's UCC, Fullerton for choosing to donate \$375.00 in support of our response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. We are able to serve food in times of need because of incredible donors, local chefs, and volunteers who show up in different ways. In our response to the crisis in Ukraine alone, we have partnered with more than 500 restaurants, food trucks, and caterers along with countless community organizations, volunteers, and supporters like you. I share our heartfelt gratitude from the entire WCK family. Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.

Sincerely,  
**Erin Gore**  
Senior VP, Development  
World Central Kitchen

We are proud to provide compassionate, person-centered care to every resident who calls Phoebe home and charitable care when needed. You help us fulfill our mission, and you help us provide the opportunities that make life worth living, like seasonal celebrations, enriching community life activities, and uplifting spiritual programs. Thank you so much for your congregation's generous donation to Phoebe of \$620.00 for our "Operation Santa." Gift certificates were given to our residents to use at Phoebe's beauty salon/barber shop and to Phoebe's Century Café. We can't thank you enough for your support and commitment to those we serve.

Sincerely,  
**Erin Gore**  
Senior VP, Development  
Phoebe Ministries



**St. John's**  
UCC, FULLERTON

# Have you tried it?

# QUESTIONNAIRE:

What types of activities would you enjoy and want to attend at a St. John's monthly event?

How often would you attend a monthly event at St. John's?

Which past events at St. John's have you attended and enjoyed the most?

Would you be interested in attending outdoor events at the pavilion during the warmer months?

Which events do you think would gather the most people from the neighborhood around the church?

Are there any specific themes or types of events that you would like to see at St. John's in the future?

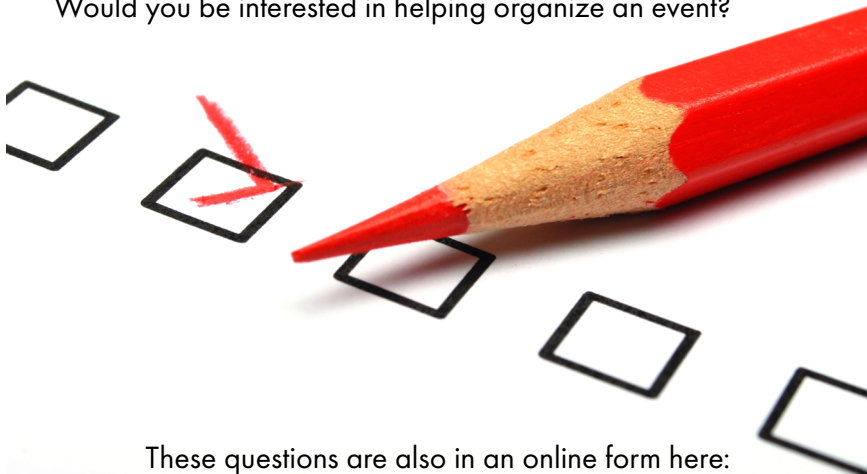
How would you prefer to learn about upcoming events at St. John's? (e.g. email, bulletin, social media, text, newsletter)

Are there any activities or events you would like to see that are not listed above?

Are there any age or interest specific activities or events you would like to see?

Are there any other suggestions or feedback you would like to provide about a monthly event at St. John's?

Would you be interested in helping organize an event?



These questions are also in an online form here:  
<https://forms.gle/LPx1QUMkJGw9GuDH6>

## Consistory 2023

Elders (Spiritual Council): Bill Fink (President) 2023

DonnaLee Yeatts (Vice President) 2024, and Wendy Fox 2025

Deacons/Elders: 2023 - Janet Ebert

Brenda Pascoe

Margaret Young

2023 Youth Deacon - Tyler Shankweiler

2024 - Joy Gravely, Wayne Lichtenwalner, Kim Hillegass (E)

2025 - Sharon Antrim, Paul Raszler (E), Kathy Roth



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

Income	Electronic	12/4/2022	12/11/2022	12/18/2022	12/25/2022	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,499.40	\$5,519.00	\$2,876.00	\$3,632.00	\$4,929.00	\$23,455.40
Rental Income--Gross					\$1,225.50	\$1,225.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$48.00	\$(604.96)	\$3,602.00	\$77.00	\$3,122.04
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers		\$272.00	\$43.00			\$315.00
Christian Education	\$60.00		\$85.00	\$40.00		\$185.00
Special Gifts					\$206.81	\$206.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,559.40</b>	<b>\$5,839.00</b>	<b>\$2,399.04</b>	<b>\$7,274.00</b>	<b>\$6,438.31</b>	<b>\$- \$28,509.75</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$4,905.22	\$13,811.00	\$(8,905.78)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,239.17	\$9,591.00	\$(1,351.83)
Property	\$2,597.35	\$3,151.00	\$(553.65)
Parish Programs	\$4,372.48	\$4,868.00	\$(495.52)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,114.22</b>	<b>\$31,421.00</b>	<b>\$(11,306.78)</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$28,509.75	\$289,392.00
Total Expenses	\$20,114.22	\$300,136.00
Net	\$8,395.53	\$(10,744.00)

**Mission Giving, Dec 2022**

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,153.00
Christmas Fund	\$565.00
Ukrainian Relief	\$220.00
UCC Hurricane 2022	\$13.20
Bethlehem Shelter	\$451.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$320.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,722.20</b>

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

Account	Nov-22	Dec-22	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$31,117.91	\$30,029.41	\$(1,088.50)
Giant Card Funds	\$2,819.51	\$389.51	\$(2,430.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,760.00	\$1,345.00	\$(415.00)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$35,697.42	\$31,763.92	\$(3,933.50)
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$73,579.97	\$74,688.04	\$1,108.07
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,865.47	\$31,865.74	\$0.27
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$105,445.44	\$106,553.78	\$1,108.34
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$458,182.40	\$441,861.85	\$(16,320.55)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$599,325.26</b>	<b>\$580,179.55</b>	<b>\$(19,145.71)</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(85,337.14)	\$(85,066.29)	\$270.85
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$(85,337.14)</b>	<b>\$(85,066.29)</b>	<b>\$270.85</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$513,988.12</b>	<b>\$495,113.26</b>	<b>\$(18,874.86)</b>



**Staff Contacts**

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Senior Pastor

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Director of Music Ministry / Organist

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**Alison Berger Boor**

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**Thomas and Emilie Moyer**

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**Michelle Gutekunst**

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Coordinating Custodian

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575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052 (610) 264-8421



# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:15am Worship Service            9:30am Confirmation Class            9:30am Faith Formation            10:45am Worship Service            12:00pm Annual Meeting &amp; Potluck</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00pm Bell Choir            7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201            6:30pm Stewardship &amp; Finance            7:00pm Worship &amp; Music Cme</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve            6:30pm STARKs Committee Mtg            6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>8:30am Men's breakfast:            Hamilton Family Restaurant            9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Newseletter Articles due            8:15am Worship Service            9:30am Confirmation Class            9:30am Faith Formation            10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00pm Bell Choir            7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:30am Visitation Committee            1:30pm Staff meeting: Rm 201            6:00pm Elders            7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201            6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:15am Worship Service            9:30am Confirmation Class            9:30am Faith Formation            10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>8:00am Office Closed            6:00pm Bell Choir            7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201            6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:15am Worship Service            9:30am Faith Formation            10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:00pm Bell Choir            7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201            6:30pm Lady PEEPS: Fox Hall</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:00am Ash and Dosh            9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201            4:00pm Ash and Dosh            6:00pm Ash Wednesday Soup            7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall            7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>