



**WAYNE
LICHTENWALNER**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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“We Are the Church Alive!”

**We are the Church Alive, Christ’s presence on this earth
We give God’s Spirit body in the act of our new birth.**

**As yielded open channels for God’s descending dove,
We shout and sing, with joy we bring God’s all-inclusive love.**

— Jack Hoggatt and David Pelletier, 1980

Written in 1980 for use in the Metropolitan Community Church, this is an original text and tune that I’ve always thought should be used across a broader spectrum of churches. I first heard it when I was attending Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, Texas. The now widely-used hymn became greatly significant and meaningful in the 1980s and 90s as so many people died in the AIDS epidemic (not yet known in 1980). It was an awe-filled experience to sing “We are the Church Alive, The body must be healed...” with hundreds of other voices on a Sunday morning -- a hymn, a prayer, and a cry of defiance all in one. We will be singing this hymn on our Open & Affirming Sunday, June 25, with our message “Come As Who You Are!”

Throughout the month of June, our worship will focus on who we are as the Body of Christ. At St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, we recognize the blessing of being a people who are open to new ways in which God is fashioning and transforming us to share who we are with God’s still speaking voice of hope and love. Some days, our tasks may seem more like a challenge and chore than an opportunity and blessing. Yet with each new day, God is using us to share a relatable, relevant, resounding presence in our community. As the Body of Christ, we boldly affirm “We Are the Church Alive!”

We are rooted in faith and the Spirit.

We are shaped by our tradition and grace.

We are called to proclaim Good News.

We are growing in God’s all inclusive love.

The hymn also recognized that our witness in the world does not always match up with our aspiration and intention. Sometimes, many times, we come to the truth that we have harmed one another, we have not loved our neighbors or ourselves. Even then, the hymn writer affirms...

**We are the Church Alive, the body must be healed;
Where strife has bruised and battered us,
God's wholeness is revealed.**

**Our mission is an urgent one; in strength and health let's stand,
So that our witness to God's light will shine through every land.**

May our journey of faith affirm our hope and celebrate God's Church Alive, the Body of Christ, 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...



WAYNE LICHTENWALNER

I became a member of St. John's UCC six years ago. St. John's has helped me grow tremendously in my faith journey. Thank you to all for welcoming me into this church family. For that I am truly grateful.

After retiring, I was able to become more involved in helping to be the church. I am currently serving on the consistory, the personnel committee and I also chair the property committee.

Outside of church, I enjoy gardening and home canning. I also enjoy riding motorcycles and spending as much time as possible with our grandchildren.

Confirmation Class 2022-2023 Celebrated

Pentecost Sunday, May 28, our 2022-2023 Confirmation Class will be received into the membership of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton faith family. They will have all the rights and responsibilities of every person who has made St. John's their place to worship God and share themselves in love and service.

Aubrey Beckwith, Kayla Bryant, Gavin Phillips and Carson Strauss are confirming their faith and beliefs and choosing to make St. John's their place to continue the journey and grow in God's love with us. [\(See pages 20-21\)](#)



Music at St. John's

Being in my position of serving St. John's for only ten months as of this writing, as your choir director, has truly been a humbling and incredible chapter of my life!

On April 11th, 2023, I went in front of the Consistory and expressed to them a dream of one day owning a grand piano for the church. With their blessing and excitement, the dream was given permission to begin. 12 days later I am beyond grateful, humbled and speechless (*that never happens*) by the generosity and love from this congregation. The total project to make this dream a reality was \$9,100.00. The number was high as a precaution in the event additional factors came into play. Such factors included purchasing a piano dolly, hiring movers who will move the piano from its original home to our sanctuary, tuning the piano, developing and buying a plaque of recognition for those who contributed to the adventure, having wires installed to move the organ out of the pit, and finally some renovations to the chancel to allow music to ring throughout the church.



As of this writing, it gives me great joy to announce we have raised \$11,330.00!! Thank you truly from the bottom of my heart for your kindness, acceptance, and support these last ten months and most importantly, making a dream come true!

The additional funds raised from this “adventure” will go into a music ministry fund and will be applied towards reestablishing the music ministry. Funds will be set aside for yearly piano tunings (2 tunings per year), new music that will be commissioned by your generosity will be purchased to allow the music ministry (both choir and handbells) to learn, grow in their ministry and be able to share during worship. Additional funds will allow for the ability to pay outside professional instrumentalists to come for special musical events that will allow the opportunity to enhance our worship services throughout the liturgical year.

So with all this excitement, what’s the next dream to accomplish for our church and the music ministry? Well, if we can make the grand piano dream a reality, imagine what the sound and beauty of including a few more voices in our choir could do! Gone are the titles of Chancel and Jubilation, and in their place is now The Choir of St. John’s —one choir, one identity, united together in song! As I mentioned in May newsletter, I can’t help but reflect on the incredible journey our Music Ministry continues to travel on. What these last ten months have shown to me, as a director, is that music is very much alive in our congregation... not to mention the time, effort, and the growth of confidence of our very own choir!

So, I ask you to take this summer to pray about, consider, ask yourself, what is stopping you from becoming involved? Is it weekly commitment? Is it Sunday obligation? I believe together we can make the growth of our choir the next great opportunity for our church! If you are on the fence and want additional information or an idea of what it is like to be part of the choir, my door is always open!

It is with humble heart and gratitude I continue to say *Thank You* for making this dream a reality! Wishing everyone a happy, relaxing, and fun filled summer!

Patrick Sandt

Worship Celebrations In June

"We Are the Body of Christ"

9:30am Combined Worship / Children's Faith Formation

1st Sunday Communion

Offer the gifts of God in Christ with each other as we receive and share.

June 4

Celebration of Trinity Sunday and the 60th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. Dave Mohr! Dave will be preaching, along with our choir's final presentation before summer. Join us for a great day of worship.

June 11

Honoring the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. John Hoff. We look forward to expressing our gratitude for the years of faithful ministry of two of our retired pastors who have their membership and participation with St. John's UCC.

June 18

Father's Day "Hawaiian/Bluegrass Theme" - Outdoor Worship at the St. John's Pavilion. Come in your favorite Hawaiian attire and bring a comfortable lawn chair if you like. We will have some great bluegrass music and hopefully, beautiful weather for our worship outdoors under the Pavilion. We will enjoy a fellowship time after to honor all those who have had a "Dad" models/role in our lives.

June 25

Open & Affirming Sunday in the UCC. Our invitation theme this day is "Come as Who You Are!" To be an Open & Affirming congregation is about LGBTQIA+ inclusion and hospitality in the Church, but it is so much more than just that. Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

As Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, our Penn NE Conference Minister recently shared, being Open & Affirming also indicates our openness and diversity to genders, nationalities and ethnicities, physical/mobility needs for accessibility, hearing, sight and general status of life. When we say, "Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!", we mean it! Check out her article in This Week in PNEC – <https://bit.ly/BonnieArticle>

Join us this June as we celebrate who we are together as the Body of Christ!

Adult Faith Formation

During the summer months at St. John's, our adult faith formation group, The Friendship Class, takes a break from regular gatherings. We will remind you when class activities resume. While on break, consider taking part in another ongoing group like the weekly Verso-Chat Lectionary Study group, meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9am, onsite or by Zoom. There will be other short-term class opportunities offered in July and August for your growth in faith.

Remember, Faith Formation isn't just Sunday School, but any opportunity in which we can develop our understanding of God and each other and deepen our faith. We are people who have many questions. We want to know God, personally and in community. Are you interested in creating a summer book study? Would you like to lead or be part of a short-term topic discussion? Faith Formation continues beyond Sunday morning gatherings.

Join us for the Sunday After Worship Social in Fox Hall. Perhaps you might want to be part of a table conversation there and grow in fellowship together.

Sunday Morning Social Hour "Hosts" This Summer

Would you be willing to "host" a Sunday morning Social Hour in Fox Hall? We are still looking for volunteers for social time following the Sunday morning worship service. Please sign up on the red display board in the Parlor and visit with Colleen Kulhammer or Kenda Catalini.

Come As Who You Are Sunday - June 25

Celebrate our Open & Affirming UCC connection as we welcome ALL PEOPLE to "Come As Who You Are!" Would you like to help make support ribbons to place in the church yard on Grape St.? Would you like to help put up banners? The Consistory has come up with some fun ideas to help us make St. John's message of welcome and inclusion visible to our community. How can you help make that St. John's welcome a reality for anyone and everyone? Share your support and help us create a visible welcome for the month of June and beyond! St. John's is a welcoming and safe place all year long! Come as who you are! You are WELCOME HERE!



Ice Cream Social

Don't miss the fun!

Saturday
July 15th



On July 15 at the Pavilion from 1pm to 2pm. We will be selling novelties, Come join the fun, with ice cream music and a Surprise visit. Hope to see you all there.



Become an “Automatic Contributor”

Currently, 49 giving units participating.

Having the consistent support of recurring contributions from the congregation makes all the difference in our ability to meet our financial need. The Stewardship & Finance Committee, with the amazing work of Sue Weldner as Treasurer and Tom and Emilie Moyer as our Financial Secretaries, continue to look at all the monthly contribution information to see how we can best plan and budget for the expenses of our ministries. With the summer season almost here, we want to encourage more people to consider becoming an automatic/recurring contributor. The process is easy to set up and your giving may be amended at any time. Please consider utilizing our safe, encrypted giving method to share your consistent support of our ministry at St. John’s UCC, Fullerton.

Sue and Tom tell us we are growing in the right direction! With increased contributions will come increased ability to support and engage in more robust ministry. Thank you for your generosity! We still have only 49 giving units utilizing this service. It makes a tremendous difference in the monthly cashflow 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!

Study the Pentecost Seasons' Scriptures with Verso Chat Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9am

Each season of the church worship year invites us to both new and familiar scriptures to deepen our faith and worship experience. You too can enhance your experience this summer of the Pentecost season by joining our weekly Verso Chat Bible Study on Wednesday mornings.

We explore the weekly readings of scripture we share in worship. You're invited and welcome to participate in fun and conversation as we search through the lectionary readings for upcoming worship services as a study opportunity. ALL are welcome to drop in and participate. Each week is it's own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words.

Verso Chat meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am on Zoom, and you are always welcome to participate onsite with 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://bit.ly/VersoChat>



Children's Faith Formation This Summer!

~ Blessed to Be a Blessing ~
Sunday mornings and more!

Thank you to all who have signed up for our Summer Sunday morning program for our children! Your involvement is vital to their faith formation, and it does something pretty wonderful for the adults as we share our faith. There are still a few "open opportunities" for you to sign up to help this ministry at the display board in the parlor. We are "Blessed to Be a Blessing!"



"Blessed to Be a Blessing" shifts to our summer schedule beginning June 4, with kids in worship through the Children's Message, and then kids and leaders moving to a classroom to share in sacred circle time, a Bible story, crafts and some other goodies. Open to all children age 4 through 6th grade, come check out the great things happening in Room 101. Adult leaders and helpers are welcome to observe, participate and get to know the routine so you can help sustain and expand this vital ministry to our youngest followers of Christ over the summer and beyond.

Congratulations Graduates!



Nicholas Bach, son of Christina Bach, will graduate from Whitehall Copley High School on June 5th. Nicholas plans on attending Lehigh vocational technical institute after graduation. He is interested in studying engineering and mechanics. He hopes to find employment repairing model trains. He also plans to participate in a work program. Nicholas enjoys volunteering for WK&S, an excursion railroad. He works as a conductor. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of trains, railroad history, retail and the history of local businesses. He also enjoys taking care of his dog, Chip. Nick plans to help with the family business, selling dog biscuits.



Molly O'Connell Twigg, daughter of Andrew Twigg and Bridget O'Connell of Bethlehem, granddaughter of Carole and Dennis O'Connell of Whitehall, will graduate from Freedom High School. Academic Achievements: Project Lead the Way-Biomedical Innovation-Capstone Program, National Honor Society, Recipient of: Gold cord for membership in National Honor Society, Silver cord for 239 hours of community service, Red cord for donating blood four times. School Activities: Member of the field hockey and track and field teams, Ambassador of the Crohn's and Colitis Club, Key Club, Mini-Thon. Outside Activities: Volunteer Patient Advocate at St. Luke's Hospital-Anderson Campus, TJ Maxx employee. Future Plans: Enrolled in an EMT training course this July then off to Penn State-Main Campus this fall to study Nursing.



Madison Musselman graduated from Shippensburg University Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education.



Gregory Sommer, son of Tim & Stacy and brother of Audra, will graduate from Whitehall High School on June 5, 2023. Gregory is a member of the WHS golf team, as well as a member of the WHS Track and Field team, where he competed in pole vaulting. Gregory also spent most of his youth playing soccer for Triboro and playing baseball for Hokey Park. Gregory is a member of the concert band as a trumpet player. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta (Math National Honor Society). Gregory will be attending Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, PA, where he will be majoring in Conservation and Wildlife Management. He also will continue pole vaulting for Del Val's track team.

IronPigs Baseball

Not much time left! The deadline for reservations is June 18. Join us in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. Buffalo Bisons baseball game. Game day is Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05pm. The cost is \$13 per person which includes a ticket to the game, \$2 refreshment or food voucher, and raffle ticket. It will be Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs will be \$1 at the beginning of the evening. For reservations, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com. Payment must be made in advance with checks payable to St. John's.

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 June 3 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 QVRRBold@aol.com

Calling All Crafters and Vendors!

Looking for Crafters and Vendors for November 4, 9am to 2pm, in Fox hall and throughout the church. If you are interested in signing up, please let Kenda know ASAP to secure your spot. There are contracts in Kenda's church office mailbox if you have interest. A spot will not be guaranteed unless we have a signed and paid contract. You will receive an email to confirm. If you have questions, please call Kenda Catalini at (484) 358-7453 or email kpcatalini@aol.com

ALSO, SOS – IF YOU CROCHET, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Crafters Group is looking for more people who can crochet. We need is your time and talent to crochet the tops on our T- towels. Supplies will be provided. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com



Vacation Bible School Camps

KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE



Christian Early Learning Center

Developing the Whole Person - Mind, Body & Spirit
Established 2017

We are excited to announce our Vacation Bible School Camps themes for June, July and August at St. John's UCC, in partnership with our own St. John's Christian Early Learning Center. We will have three Vacation Bible School camps, Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-Noon. Look for additional information on our website to register your family and neighborhood kids coming soon. To volunteer to be a group leader/helper/support person, please sign up for the days which work best for you on the display board in the parlor, or contact the church office.

Please visit with Rev. Becca Stephens, Susan Rarich or Pastor Steve or anyone in the Education Task Force about how you can share your life in blessing our children. There will be more information to register on the website and through Facebook, and sign up sheets to help for each camp are on the display board in the parlor.

We are currently seeking donations for the program and people support, trying to raise about \$1,000 for each session (\$3,000 total), in hopes of a good response as we had for our Easter Egg Hunt. The registration fee will be \$10 child per camp session (\$20 max/family per camp session). Donate and share your interest in helping kids know God's love through St. John's UCC / Christian Early Learning Center.

June 20-22

Knights of the North Castle - The Shields of Truth & Faith

July 18-20

Knights of the North Castle - The Shields of Justice and Peace

August 15-17

Knights of the North Castle - The Shield of Salvation

REGISTER HERE

Water Gathering Reminder On Vacations

If you haven't picked up a small bottle to collect water from various places in your summer travels, a basket is available at the center aisle entry table. Please pick up a couple to collect a sample of water from your journeys across the country and around the world in 2023. Bring it back with a note of location and person, and give it to Pastor Steve for safe keeping. 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.



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
Jean Fischl	Dale Millham	
Milton Focht	Karen Moyer	

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

Home Communion Returns This Month!

Congregational Caring and Support Ministry

Our Elders and Consistory leadership are excited to announce the return of our ability to bring home communion to those who desire to receive. Thanks to the great leadership of our Elder and Consistory VP, DonnaLee Yeatts, and the outstanding support of our leadership, a new connection will strengthen our ministry of congregational caring. About 30 persons are currently on our Homebound Visitation list, and a few others are also not able to regularly receive holy communion. We want to reach out to you by bringing the gifts of holy communion to you in your home. If you would appreciate a visit with communion, please contact the church office, (610) 264-8421, so we can include you.

Our thanks to Rev. Evelyn Stupp, dear friend and affiliate clergy in our congregation, who will offer training for those who will serve, and to Rev. Steve Davis for preparing a Home Communion Guide to go with the baskets of communion elements for us to share the gifts and love of Christ together. If you're a St. John's Elder, or just love sharing



God's love with people, and you're willing to help with this great ministry of relationship, please contact the church office. We are excited to offer welcome new persons. Let us hear from you today!

Our Visitation Committee serves powerfully, reaching out to our homebound with cards, calls and visits on a regular basis. St. John's is blessed with these dedicated persons for their faithful support and service. We are looking for more caring people who would like to help build great relationships with our homebound members and others who need that special touch of love and care from St. John's.

As we work to re-imagine our visitation and congregational care support, we hope to expand our caring connections even more as the year continues. We invite you to be part of the difference we make together. 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 connection as 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.





AUBREY BECKWITH

Faith Statement

God created us. God is powerful, almighty, and kind. God helps us in times of need and shows us the ways when we need to be guided. God is forgiving. God is always with us. In our wrongdoings and bad choices, God never leaves our side. God is love.

Mary, a virgin, gave birth to Jesus, God's son. Jesus guided us through God's ways. He had 12 disciples that followed and taught God's ways and listened to Jesus' teachings. Jesus helped people in the ways of God. Jesus died on a cross for all our sins so that we may go to heaven. Three days after his death, the cave was empty, and he came in the flesh soon after. He helped people for a while after that, and then left to be with God, saying that he would come back again someday.

The Holy Spirit is something that is always there. It is all around us, and in us. It guides us through bad times, and the good. It's a presence that we can feel, like the air we breathe. It's a part of us that we cannot see. The Holy Spirit helps us through our faith journey and shows us the ways of Christianity.

Church is a place where people come together to be with God. It is a sacred place not because of what it is, but the people in it. People good and bad come to this place to gather and speak to God. Church is welcoming even through bad times every person goes through. It begins as a place of worship and ends as a place of love and peace.

In conclusion, this is what I believe. Everyone is always welcome into God's open hands. Jesus teaches us the ways of God and shows us how to love and share. In this Faith Statement, I conclude that this is where I want to go from here, and what I believe in.

Aubrey is the daughter of Brad and Alyssa Beckwith, and granddaughter of Becky and Bob Beckwith. She was baptized at St. John's in 2010 and is in the 7th grade at Orefield Middle School and lives in Schnecksville. Aubrey participates in softball, dance, school plays / musicals, orchestra, chorus. Her confirmation mentor is Becky Beckwith, our Pastor Emerita.



KAYLA BRYANT

Faith Statement

I believe in one God, not around me, but in the world and I believe he watches over us.

I believe that the Holy Spirit brings comfort and is always around.

I believe Jesus teaches us God's ways and that he creates life and healing.

I believe that the church is a place I worship and connect with your beliefs.

I believe that people who go to heaven were very good in their life.

I believe Jesus creates everyone kind and caring, but what they do affects them in life.

Kayla is the daughter of Craig and Tara Bryant and Alex is her older brother. She was baptized at St. John's in 2011. Kayla is in the 7th grade, attending Southern Lehigh Middle School and lives in Coopersburg. Among her many interests, Kayla participates in Chorus, Studio 22 and she wants to be a fire fighter. Kayla's Confirmation mentor is Evelyn Broad.



GAVIN PHILLIPS

Faith Statement

I believe that all should be allowed into the church and that no one should be excluded from ministry, a congregation, or faith group.

I believe in the forgiveness of God, but also in his justice.

I believe in the resurrection of Christ.

I believe in God's gift of knowledge.

Gavin is the son of Jeffrey Phillips and Amanda Kaiser, and the grandson of Joan Phillips. He was baptized at Dubbs Memorial UCC in 2010 and lives in Orefield. He is in the 7th grade at Circle of Seasons Charter School in Fogelsville. Gavin actively participates in Boy Scouts, camping, fishing, hunting, bee keeping, plays the piano and drums, enjoys D&D, skiing and hiking. Gavin recently shared a piano prelude for our worship service. His Confirmation mentor is Wendy Fox.



CARSON STRAUSS

Faith Statement

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Church are important to all of our lives.

I think church is the most important because we worship all of those while in our church.

God is the creator of the world and all people. God also reminds me of my mom because she created me and brought me into this world.

Jesus heals us and is God's son, and he also reminds me of a head coach. He leads all of us.

Also, the Holy Spirit is always around to help and comfort us. An example of this is when my grades were bad and my parents made me push to do my best to get better grades. I worked very hard and they improved.

Church is a time where we read from the Bible every time in church just to remind people how important God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit and how they affect our lives each and every day.

Carson is the son of Brian and Bonnie Strauss, and his older brother is Connor. The Strauss family live in Whitehall. He was baptized at St. John's in 2010 and Brian and Tracy Fisher are his godparents. Carson is in the 7th grade attending Whitehall Middle School. He's an avid sports fan and player, participating in soccer, baseball, basketball, and also in Tru Club. Carson's Confirmation mentor is Brian Fisher.

Anglican Insights From St. John's Dixie

Pastor Steve follows the Twitter blog of a fun and festive Anglican priest (yes, some Anglican priests are quite fun and festive) who serves as Pastor of St. John's Dixie, an Anglican congregation in East Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. "Rev. Daniel" @RevDaniel on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/revdaniel> recently posted something too good not to share.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER YOU WIELD IN SIMPLY EXISTING

As we prepare for our upcoming "Come As Who You Are" Sunday on June 25, let's remember his insights and then practice them every day of our lives!

We are the Church Alive! We Are the Body of Christ!

"Whether you're a woman standing up to misogyny and patriarchy; a member of the LGBTQ+ community facing down homophobia and transphobia;

a person of colour calling out and opposing racism;

a member of any dis-empowered community fighting bigotry and demanding justice and equality...

...know that every time you refuse to hide, lessen yourself, or be silent; every time you show up, speak up and refuse to shut up; every time you are simply and unapologetically yourself despite condemnation and threats against you for being who you are...

...you shine like a candle flame of light for someone terrified of the dark; you resound for someone like a harmonious chord in a discordant din of noise; you appear to someone thirsting in the desert like an oasis of cool water.

In other words, you give someone out there hope.

You give them hope that if you can live in this world with confidence, joy and peace as yourself, maybe...

just maybe...

quite possibly...

no, definitely...

there's a way they can live here too with confidence, joy and peace, while being exactly who they are.

That is an incredible and awesome gift to give someone.

And cisgender (a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex registered for them at birth), heterosexual white men? You have enormous privilege and power. Every time you use it to affirm, elevate and support those without your privilege and power, willingly sharing it – you not only become an ally, you challenge and inspire others like you to do the same.

Joining St. John's 5G Connection Class

We all want to have a great "high speed" connection when we use our phones or when online. We want that same great connection with God, the church community as a whole and individual people. We want relationship with each other! St. John's continues to be a place for our love to grow through a great connection, which we call a 5G Connection!

We are excited to offer another opportunity for people interested in becoming part of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton family of faith to do so. Pastor Steve will be meeting with anyone interested in being received into St. John's in an informal time of conversation on Sunday, June 18 and June 25, following worship. Let him know of your interest so he can be looking for you either of those days.

Our next "Welcome to St. John's" Sunday to receive new persons in covenant grace will be on Sunday, July 9, as part of our 9:30am worship service. We look forward to connecting with you.

- 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!

Onsite and online sessions with Pastor Steve are your opportunity to further your connection with God, the church community and each other. Enjoy a 5G Connection today!



5G
Connection Class

St. John's Gift Card Bingo

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Another exciting evening of Gift Card Bingo is coming! The theme for this evening will be Hawaii, so please plan to dress for the occasion. We hope you will consider some of the many ways you can help to make this evening a success.

Buy tickets for you and your friends. They are \$20 in advance, but \$25 at the door (if there are any left). The last Bingo was almost sold out.

You can also support this event by any of the following ways:

Sponsor a game for \$50. This will cover the cost of the gift card for that game. (Or \$100 if you want to sponsor a "Special game".) Your donation will be acknowledged in the program.

Donate an item or gift card to our "Tricky Tray" table. The value of these should be in the range of \$20 to \$30.

Kitchen items needed:

- Hamburger BBQ
- A crock-pot of Pirogies
- Potato or macaroni salad
- Beef hot dogs
- Rolls for hot dogs and hamburgers
- Baked goods
- Bottles of water - 12 oz. size
- Cans of soda. To make things easier, we prefer Coca-Cola products. We especially need regular, caffeine-free regular, diet, caffeine-free diet, and Sprite.

**PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE
"FUN-RAISING" COMMITTEE, OR TOM MOYER,
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ANY
OF THE ABOVE ITEMS.**

WE THANK YOU!

What is OCWM?

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the name given to congregational gifts that support the wider UCC Ministry in associations, conferences, and in the national and global church. It is divided into "Basic Support" and "Special Offerings" (Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church and The Christmas Fund). They are five separate funds in which St. John's and other churches are "5 for 5" if they contribute to all 5 offerings.

Here are some of the programs and ways your OCWM contributions help the wider church:

- UCC Youth – camps, youth events, scholarships.
- UCC Clergy – continuing education, clergy gatherings, scholarships, resources.
- UCC Churches – church development, pastoral support, leadership training.
- UCC National & Global Ministries – missionaries, disaster recovery, justice advocacy.

At Penn Northeast Conference, your OCWM dollars are used for:

- Supporting PNEC local churches in search and call as well as providing members with seminars in church governance, health and wellness and important legal issues.
- Supporting our PNEC church students and higher education candidates with helpful scholarships to pay for professions we need such as teachers, ministers, and nurses.
- Helping PNEC churches revitalize with new ministries or special curriculums and with conversation groups to brainstorm new ideas.
- Providing PNEC church members with retreats and youth programs in order to build up the Community of Christ.

You will learn more about OCWM in our next newsletter. Your weekly offering envelopes have OCWM listed as a means to contribute or you can contribute on-line or by text.

June Birthdays

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

6/1	Kasey Thompson Kevin Weidner	6/16	Melody Fox
6/2	Kay Chryst	6/20	Charles Apple Sophia Pagan
6/3	Aaron Young	6/21	Kristen VanFleet
6/4	Keith Held Linda Luckenbill	6/22	Brandon Deutsch Cheryl Mill
6/5	Jeffrey Seeds Zachary Szoke	6/24	Stephen Reck Ernest Zellner Jr
6/6	Gregg Fisher Margaret Huegel	6/25	Dale Serfass
6/8	Chad Marinkovits	6/26	Patricia Yanavok
6/9	Joan Yura	6/29	Thomas Gersbach
6/12	Julie Beck	6/30	Michele Robinson
6/13	Alexander Bach Linda Geissinger Lynn Miller		



June Wedding Anniversaries

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

Robert & Cheryl Mill 6/2/1979	Linda & Keith Helfrich 06/19
Richard & Traci Hicks 6/4/1986	Andrew & Judith Doyle 6/20/1987
Glenn & Carol Buskirk 6/5/1965	William & Tara Roth Jr. 6/20/2015
Donald & Dianna Schneck 6/9/2018	Franklin & Natalie Reichl 6/21/1975
David & Donna Brown 6/11/1983	Randy & Cathy Bachman 6/24/1989
Thomas & Doris Hunsicker 6/13/1964	Mark & Sheryn Chwastiak 6/25/2005
Gary & Ruthann Hallman 6/14/1969	Brian & Bonnie Strauss 6/29/2002
Larry & Freda Albright 6/16/1963	George & Sharon Romberger 6/30/1979
Troy & Brittany Rothrock 6/17/2017	Sandra & Steven Nagy 5/31/2002

Church Chuckle



A man broke into a house one night, his goal was to take something small and valuable. While he was searching through the house, he heard a small voice say, "Jesus is watching you."

He stopped for a moment and thought to himself, "This must be a voice from my old Sunday school." So he continued searching, about 5 minutes later he heard the voice again "Jesus is watching you."

He turned his flashlight and saw a parrot. He said to the parrot "What is your name?" The parrot replied "Moses."

The robber then said, "What kind of silly people would name their parrot Moses?" The parrot looked up and said, "The same people who named the pitbull Jesus!"



“Strengthen the Church”

The theme for this year’s Strengthen the Church offering is “On Holy Ground.” This offering supports the efforts of our conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ to support leaders, plant new churches, awaken ideas and provide innovations to existing congregations, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Together, we all grow stronger.

As Rev. John Dorhauer (General Minister & President of UCC) said, “Strengthen the Church is an opportunity for your gifts to sustain not only for growing, renewing, and birthing churches; but it will also ensure that the “Holy Ground” they create remains the sacred space in which the extravagant welcome of our beloved Jesus is embodied. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift to sustain this work of our churches. Thank you for helping us create the kind of sacred spaces where “Holy Ground” transforms despair into hope, fear into self-confidence, anger into compassion, judgment into hospitality, and disdain into love.”

A special offering envelope and insert is included in this newsletter. Contributions will be received until the end of June and can be mailed to the church office or can be made on-line or by text.

General Disaster Relief Fund

Donations for June will go towards “Project HOPE” for Ukrainian relief efforts. On May 7, two Project HOPE warehouses in Odesa and Kherson were damaged by Russian missile attacks. The two

warehouses, which stored HOPE's humanitarian aid supplies, generators, and health and hygiene kits, were severely damaged. The region of Kyiv and Kharkiv, where HOPE had offices and widespread programming, were also targeted. Thankfully, all their staff were safe and unharmed. While the increase in attacks created additional security considerations, HOPE is committed to continuing to care for the Ukrainian people by meeting their critical health needs. In recent months the Project HOPE team has expanded its work by moving closer to the front lines to distribute emergency drinking water, operate mobile medical units, and monitor emergency needs. HOPE also delivers needed medicines and supplies, offers training for health workers, and provides other relief for communities.

Your contribution can be mailed to the church or by on-line giving or text. Be sure to mark "Project HOPE" in the memo section. We will continue to receive donations for "Tornado Relief" until the end of May. Thank you to everyone who contributed to World Central Kitchen for Ukraine Relief in April with donations totaling \$485.00. Envelopes for the General Disaster Relief Fund can be found on the table in the lounge area.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of June, we are collecting ground coffee, hamburger helper, rice, and macaroni & cheese. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by on-line or text. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black by email gary.t.black@outlook.com or at (610) 262-6114. Help is needed to stock shelves and distribute food to their clients.

Collection of Backpacks & School Supplies

We will be asking for donations of backpacks, calculators, and school supplies for the Whitehall-Coplay School District in July. A collection box will be in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. A list of items needed and further details will be in the July newsletter.

Shoe Drive Update

Thank you all once again for donating 465 pairs of shoes (22 trash bags) for the Friedens UCC Shoe Drive. It was an awesome response! Thank you also to John and Charlee Hoff for donating large size rubber bands for binding the shoes together. As of May 13, Friedens had completed 215 trash bags of shoes, with more expected to come. This project was to help sponsor a two-week mission trip in August to rebuild houses in Peru.

Besides St. John's, other churches that helped with shoe donations were: Shenkel UCC in Pottstown, Falkner Swamp UCC in Gilbertsville, St Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood, Friedens Lutheran Church in Oley, Maiden Creek UCC in Blandon, Bethany Evangelical Church in Pleasantville, and Trinity Great Swamp UCC in Spinnerstown. The Athletic Department at Millersville University also contributed. However, our donation was by far the largest amount Friedens received.

Please stop by the table in the lounge area where you will find a poster with pictures of the Shoe Drive. There are still 3 openings for the mission trip. If you are interested, you can contact Sue Henne (Mission Team Co-Chair at Friedens UCC) s.henne73@icloud.com

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, June 4	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. 5 th St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, June 20	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Sunday, July 2	St John the Baptist Church	3024 S. Ruch St., Whitehall	(610) 730-8067
Tuesday, July 18	Redeemed Christian Church of God	5 N. Third St, Coplay	(610) 262-8993

While we are not able at this time to prepare meals here at St. John's, you can contact any church which is hosting the event and volunteer to help.

What is the UCC Climate Hope Postcard Campaign?

If you are concerned about climate change, UCC National is putting together a campaign to address this issue. More information will be available and published in the July newsletter.

CROP Hunger Walk – We Need a Team of Walkers

The CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, starting at 1:30pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St. Allentown. To join the St. John’s Team as a walker, please contact Cindy Reck at (610) 776-4154 or email cmreck57@gmail.com



How Did St. John’s Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	Apr 2023	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,291.00	\$4,573.00	\$5,590.10	\$5,981.10
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 580.00	\$ 810,00
Wheat Basket	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	-0-	-0-
Ukraine Relief Fun	\$ 340.00	\$ 1,130.00	\$2,430,00	N/A
Hurricane Disaster Relief	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	N/A	N/A
Tornado Disaster Relief	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	N/A	N/A
General Disaster Relief	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for April 2023 totaled \$2,111.00 and YTD giving totaled \$9,120.00.

Thank You Notes

To St. John's Congregation,

Our church and our mission team would like to thank you for everything you have done to help us with the shoe collection fundraising project. Your congregation really rose to the challenge, and we are so very grateful and appreciative for everything your church has done. Your participation by collecting 465 pairs of shoes was amazing and awesome. It makes me feel really good to know that there are churches out there with congregations who are willing to help with projects such ours. I am hoping that maybe we can return the favor to your congregation if you end up doing some kind of project that we might be able to assist with.

Blessings,
Sue Henne
Mission Team Co-Chair
Friedens UCC, Oley, PA

Just wanted to put a huge Thank You out there to all who were involved with the basket social to help. You are appreciated more than you will ever know.

Thanks, Kenda

The 2023 Spring St. John's Walking Challenge was a lot of fun. Our walkers did 4,887,043 total steps. This equals 2,172.019 miles. Since we began these challenges, St. John's walkers stepped 27,975,642 steps WOW. That equals 2,172.019 miles to date. Everyone turned in great numbers each week in spite of the bad weather the first two weeks. Watch for the dates for the Fall Walking Challenge and be sure to participate.

Healthcare Ministry

The spring blood drive had 20 people registered. Keystone-Miller Blood Center was able to collect 19 total bags of blood. Thank you to all who participated to help save lives.

Healthcare Ministry

Clergy Milestones

Pastors celebrating the anniversaries of their ordinations in June:

Rev. Cliff Herring - 51st Anniversary of Ordination June 11, 1972

Rev. John Hoff - 50th Anniversary of Ordination June 10, 1973

Rev. David Mohr - 60th Anniversary of Ordination June 1, 1963

The
June 2023
edition of St. John's
CONNECTIONS
is sponsored
in loving memory of Parents,
Jacob H. and Eleanor M. Chryst
by son Thomas Chryst and Family



St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
Apr 2023

Income	Electronic	4/2/2023	4/9/2023	4/16/2023	4/23/2023	4/30/2023	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,406.61	\$4,895.75	\$4,437.00	\$3,264.00	\$2,644.00	\$2,467.00	\$24,114.36
Rental Income--Gross					\$40.00		\$40.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp				\$246.03		\$95.76	\$341.79
Endowment Interest			\$5,791.00				\$5,791.00
Flowers						\$71.50	\$71.50
Christian Education	\$10.00	\$14.00		\$72.00	\$8.00	\$42.00	\$146.00
Special Gifts							\$-
Total	\$6,416.61	\$4,909.75	\$10,228.00	\$3,582.03	\$2,692.00	\$2,676.26	\$30,504.65

Expense Summary		Actual		Budget		Difference
Pastoral Services		\$10,565.69		\$11,749.00		\$(1,183.31)
Staff Salaries & Expense		\$7,758.72		\$9,414.50		\$(1,655.78)
Property		\$3,364.70		\$3,618.00		\$(253.30)
Parish Programs		\$3,518.44		\$2,730.50		\$787.94
Total		\$25,207.55		\$27,512.00		\$(2,304.45)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$30,504.65	\$115,091.54
Total Expenses	\$25,207.55	\$95,593.00
Net INC	\$5,297.10	\$19,498.54

Mission Giving, Apr 2023

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,271.00
Disaster Relief	\$505.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$315.00
Total	\$2,091.00

St John's UCC Fullerton
Fund Balances
For Month Ending, Apr 2023

Account	Mar-23	Apr-23	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$45,977.08	\$48,501.21	\$2,524.13
Giant Card Funds	\$2,314.51	\$224.51	\$(2,090.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$-
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$49,011.59	\$49,445.72	\$434.13
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$77,695.86	\$85,422.18	\$7,726.32
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,866.52	\$31,866.78	\$0.26
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$109,562.38	\$117,288.96	\$7,726.58
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$453,736.77	\$452,480.06	\$(1,256.71)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$612,310.74	\$619,214.74	\$6,904.00
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(84,873.30)	\$(84,767.16)	\$106.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(84,873.30)	\$(84,767.16)	\$106.14
NET FUND BALANCE	\$527,437.44	\$534,447.58	\$7,010.14





Staff Contacts

Rev. Steve Davis
Senior Pastor

sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org

Patrick Sandt
Director of Music Ministry / Organist

sjfmusic@sjuccf.org

Alison Berger Boor
Office Administrator

sjfofficesecretary@sjuccf.org

Sue Weldner
Treasurer

sbweldner@gmail.com

Thomas and Emilie Moyer
Financial Secretary

tommoyer54@gmail.com

Michelle Gutekunst
Worship Tech
Coordinating Custodian

sjfstars@sjuccf.org
sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org

Bob Czekner
Custodian

rczekner11@aol.com

Christine Bach
Custodian

iron1@verizon.net

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

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

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>	<p>5 6:30pm Mission Committee Zoom</p>	<p>6 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance</p>	<p>7 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm SIAKs Committee Meeting 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p>1 First Day of LGBTQ+Pride Month</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 8:30am Men's breakfast: Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>11 Newsletter articles due 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>14 Flag Day 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 7:00pm Gift Card Bingo - Hawaii Theme</p>	<p>17 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>18 Father's Day 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Outdoor Sunday Worship (Bluegrass Music Sunday)</p>	<p>19 Juneenth</p>	<p>20 9:30pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p>22 6:30pm Property Committee</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>25 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>9:00am CELC/VBS Camp-Pavilion</p>	<p>28 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	
		<p>27 9:30am Staff meeting</p>				