



**NANCY  
BOWMAN**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 16 • Issue 130 • July 2023

## **“Making Agreements”**

**“Self-limiting beliefs rob us of joy and create needless suffering.”**

**“Thank you, Creator of the Universe, for the gift of life you have given me. Thank you for giving me everything that I have ever truly needed. Thank you for the opportunity to experience this beautiful body and this wonderful mind. Thank you for living inside me with all your love, with your pure and boundless spirit, with your warm and radiant light.**

**Thank you for using my words, for using my eyes, for using my heart to share your love wherever I go. I love you just the way you are, and because I am your creation, I love myself just the way I am. Help me to keep the love and the peace in my heart and to make that love a new way of life, that I may live in love the rest of my life. Amen.”**

— don Miguel Ruiz, *The Four Agreements*

We all make agreements in life, with family and spouses, with business colleagues, with neighbors and friends, even among political parties and nations. With the agreement comes an expectation, and understanding, either spoken or assumed what will happen as a result of the agreements made. There's an outcome we have in mind. Sometimes the task comes to completion as anticipated. Sometimes we find the results completely different from what we first imagined and to which we agreed.

We also make agreements with ourselves, in our own mind about our future, what we will do and who we will become, what steps we will take in our journey. We tell ourselves, and sometimes we share our hopes for agreement with the universe. In his best selling book, *The Four Agreements*, don Miguel Ruiz reminds us that the agreements we make with ourselves have the power to transform how we experience and live in this experience of life.

My life changed dramatically in January 2011 as my time in ministry with the United Methodist Church came to an end. I found myself doing what was essential to live, support myself and my children to the best of my ability, and to begin to recreate my own understanding of who I am. The challenge of all these things, all these life traumas and transitions at once seemed overwhelming. A pastor and friend at my new faith home in Dallas led a class on *The Four Agreements*. Knowing a little of my circumstances, he suggested I join the class and handed me the book. Through these agreements, I changed what I told myself and how I engaged with others, and it has made all the difference over the last 10+ years.

- Be Impeccable with Your Word
- Don't Take Anything Personally
- Don't Make Assumptions
- Always Do Your Best

For those interested in joining me, I'll be introducing us to this book through a small group conversation this Fall. We'll explore each of The Four Agreements and share our journey, with all of our questions, "yeah, buts", hesitations and hopefulness. None of these are easy. Yet, they will change your life if you let them.

As we begin the summer season, I want to invite everyone get involved in at least one new way with your faith family. Make an agreement with yourself to worship regularly throughout the summer. Make an agreement to invite someone to worship with you. Make an agreement to stay after worship, to linger and share in fellowship and to learn some new names. Make an agreement to participate in something that blesses others, especially our children. Make an agreement to focus on joyful possibilities and potential first, rather than having several reasons for why something won't work. Make an agreement to seek understanding and the perspective of others, rather than your own objections and the reasons you disagree. Make an agreement to connect with another person, by phone or card or visit and let them know they matter to you. We all make agreements. How will you choose to transform your life and others?

May our journey of faith affirm our hope and celebrate who we can be in relationship and agreement with each other as we  
"Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!"

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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## On The Cover...



### NANCY BOWMAN

My faith and trust in God's plan for me have greatly multiplied through the blessings I've received since joining St John's UCC 25 years ago.

Blessed to be able to continue my love of teaching, I taught for 32 years, by sharing teaching the Friendship Bible Class, reading scripture in worship and joining in Verso Chat. Blessed to have made so many wonderful friendships. Blessed to be able to serve with others in the growth of St John's church and family.

My prayer is to continue to worship, love and serve--No Matter What!

## News from Lehigh Conference of Churches

At the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Lehigh Conference of Churches on May 18, the following individuals were recognized:

Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith was installed as Vice President on the LCC's Board of Directors. Congratulations to Pastor Becky.

Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope was thanked for his years of service as Secretary on the Board of Directors. Scott will retire on September 1 from Phoebe Ministries and move to Florida. He will be our guest preacher at St. John's on August 20.

From July 2022 to April 2023, the LCC (located at Dubbs Memorial Community Center) has served 57,019 meals, donated 110,453 lbs. of food, hosted 839 people at its drop-in center, secured 17 landlords to participate in its landlord engagement program, and was able to obtain gainful employment for 91% of their clients.

## Music at St. John's

This July, our theme for worship will be finding Christ through our senses. Through sight, touch, smell, taste and hearing, how do we find Christ in our daily lives?

During the month of July, we will begin using a beautiful hymn written by Mary Louise Bringle, published by GIA Publications, which only appears in four hymnals entitled "Christ Be in our Senses."

The lyrics to this hymn paint a beautiful picture of what it means to find Christ in our senses.

***Christ be in your senses, marked with sacred sign. In the Incarnation flesh became divine.***

***Christ be in your hearing, tune you to rejoice; In each shout or whisper, hear God's calling voice.***

***Christ be in your vision, guard you day and night; Keep your feet from stumbling, shine God's holy light.***

***Christ be in your speaking, train your ev'ry word. In your daily witness let God's truth be heard.***

***Christ be in your breathing, constantly impart. Grace to ev'ry movement, peace within your heart.***

***Christ be in your senses, marked with sacred sign. In the Spirit's presence, flesh becomes divine.***

Musically yours,  
Patrick Sandt



## Adult Faith Formation

During the Summer months, 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 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? Contact Pastor Steve to share what you'd like to experience.

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.

### **Deadline for August Newsletter**

If you would like to contribute an article for the August 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, July 9.

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

Authors: some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:  
<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

## **Worship Celebrations In July**

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

During the 5 Sundays of July, we will explore how we can experience God more deeply through our senses. **Our July theme, Come to Your Senses: Developing Our Five Spiritual Senses**, will guide us into the Gospel of John. Upon reading John's Gospel these last months, the prominence of the five senses becomes apparent in the text (see [John 6:41-59](#), for example). Even though it may seem like our physical senses have little to do with our walk of faith, John helps us realize their crucial importance in knowing God well.

As you think about how you experience God in different ways, ask yourself...

Have I ever had such a bad cold that I couldn't smell or taste anything? (If any of you had COVID and lost your sense of taste or smell, you know.)

Have you ever gotten water in your ears so badly that the world around you sounded like a muffled mumble?

Have you ever fallen asleep on your arm and then, in the middle of the night, awakened to the terror that your hand has temporarily lost all ability to feel?

Our senses help us connect to our life experiences in powerful ways! Come and worship with others in the St. John's UCC, Fullerton family through the five Sundays of July as we experience God fully through the life God gives us in Christ.

### **1st Sunday Communion**

**"Come to Your Senses: Developing Our Five Spiritual Senses"**

#### **July 2 - Having Good Taste**

Celebrate our freedom in Christ as we gather to receive the gifts of God in Christ with each other as we share.

#### **July 9 - Life-Changing Touch**

Celebrate with St. John's UCC as we welcome new persons in covenant relationship.

## July 16 - I Can See Clearly

Celebrate the ways we've recognized God at work in our lives, past and present, and give thanks for the vision our "Still Speaking God" continues to bring for each tomorrow.

## July 23 - What's that Smell?

Celebrate the pleasant ways can sense God's grace and love and how our lives please God as well.

## July 30 - I Can Name that Tune in 5 Notes!

Celebrate with our voices, our songs and words that speak life and hope, comfort and peace into our daily living. There's within our hearts a melody! Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life!

## Bingo (Report) Card

Thanks to all of you who helped at Hawaiian Gift Card Bingo. We had amazing help, and thanks to you, everything seemed to go smoothly. The profits for the event came to \$4122.50! (10% of that goes to missions). We could have not done it without the help of all of you, so thanks for making this a successful and fun-filled event. Here's an unsolicited, anonymous quote (from Sharon A.): "I was certainly happy to be a part of the 'crew'. It was a lot of fun. We should do it more often."



## **Boscov's Friends-Helping-Friends Shopping Pass**

This event is October 18, 2023, 8am to 11pm. The shopping pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sale price on purchases for that day only. The shopping pass costs \$5.00 and St. John's keeps the entire amount towards our fundraiser. Plan to start your Christmas shopping on that day and enjoy extra savings. Contact Ginny Brokenshire at (610) 439-0443 to purchase the shopping pass or email [gabby@posleader.com](mailto:gabby@posleader.com) Passes will also be available for purchase in the church office.

## **Take Me Out to the Ballgame**

As this newsletter goes to press, we have 56 people from St. John's going to the IronPigs baseball game on Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05pm. The IronPigs will be playing against the Buffalo Bisons at Coco-Cola Park. Park information, game tickets, and vouchers for food and merchandise will be distributed to everyone by mid-July. Hotdogs are \$1.00 in the early evening. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email her at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)

## **Friendship Bible Class Picnic**

The Friendship Bible Class Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, beginning at 1pm at Bill Fink's campsite near Topton/Mertztown—rain or shine. Class members who wish to camp outside are invited to stay from Friday night to Sunday. There's a pond stocked with fish, so be sure to bring your fishing poles. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish. It would be helpful if you also brought lawn chairs. RSVP to Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) by Sunday, July 9, to confirm who's attending and what dish you will be bringing.

Thank you to the Friendship Class for hosting the Fellowship Hour following worship on June 11.





## Become an "Automatic Contributor"

**Currently, 50 giving units participating!**

We reached 50 giving units to the ministry of St. John's who have chosen to be "Automatic Contributors." Having the consistent support of recurring contributions from the congregation makes all the difference in our ability to meet our financial need, especially during the summer months when people's contributions tend to vary based on their attendance in worship and their travel. Our ministry continues, each day of the year, not just for Fall, Winter and Spring.

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 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. 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!

## God Is Still Speaking...

with Verso Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:00am

God invites us to both new and familiar scriptures each week 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571428042>



## 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!", having shifted to our new Sunday morning schedule with kids in worship through the Children's Message, then kids and leaders going to the classroom to share in sacred circle time, a Bible story and crafts and some other goodies for children, **age 4 - 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.

### Road Rally Date Set

October 15th at 1:30pm. Details forthcoming, mark your calendars now!

## **Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ**

Want to get away for a day at the beach and not worry about driving the distance? Want to enjoy great food on the boardwalk?

The “fun-raising” committee has just the trip for you. On Saturday, September 23, 2023, St. John’s is running a bus trip to Ocean City, New Jersey for the day. The cost per person is \$42.00. Perkiomen Bus Tours is chartering the trip with a 52-passenger coach bus. The bus will pick up passengers in the parking lot of St. John’s at 8:30am. We will arrive in Ocean City around 10:40-10:50am. We will be dropped off at 13th St and Boardwalk in Ocean City, NJ. The bus comes equipped with WI-FI and the ability to recharge your electronic devices at each seat. At the end of the day, we will be picked up at 7pm at the same location to head home.

After arriving, you will have the time to yourselves to go to the beach, walk the boardwalk, shop the many stores, play mini golf with all the courses being right on the boardwalk, munch down on great food at restaurants like Three Brothers Pizza or Manco Manco, or just enjoy enjoy the breeze and the sound of the waves sitting on the benches watching the people go by! Bring a folding chair or two if you like. Don’t miss this great opportunity to end summer the best way possible!

Please see either Brian Strauss, Brian Fisher, Kenda Catalini or Carol Raszler in church to pay for the trip. Once paid, you will be placed on a sign-up sheet that will be in the back of church. Deadline for payment will be Sunday, August 13.

Here are some questions and answers that you may have about the OC, NJ day trip.

**Q:** Will the bus be accessible to bring back items all day?

**A:** The bus is typically not available throughout the day, since the bus driver is off duty during the time we are there. A time would need to be coordinated with the driver for it to be available. A possible time will be discussed at the time of the trip. At the designated time, it would be suggested to bring back your beach items or if you went shopping to drop off the items as well.

Q: Will all the stores be open on the boardwalk during the time we are there?

A: Many of the stores are opened on the boardwalk in September. It is dependent on the weather and staffing as some of the staff of most places are students. Stores are individually owned and owners try to stay open, especially weekends, through September. Based on prior years, there will be plenty open for shopping and food. With the NJeep Invasion happening on September 23, (Jeeps will be lined up on the boardwalk from noon-5pm) there will be a good chance that most shops will be open.

Q: Will beach tags need to be bought to go onto the beach?

A: After September 4, the need for beach tags ends. You may go onto the beach if you would like without having to purchase a beach tag. Water may be cold. Just beware!

Q: What are some great places to eat?

A: For pizza, there is Manco & Manco (2 locations), Three Brothers, and Preps Pizzeria. For seafood, there is Ike's Famous Crabcakes and Clancy's by the Sea. Other notable places are Blue Cactus Taco Shop, Chickie's & Pete's (2 locations) and a food court. For you sweet lovers there is Kohrs Ice Cream, TLC Polis Water Ice, Jilly's Candy Factory, Cinnabon, Johnsons Popcorn and Ben & Jerry's. There is something for everybody!

Q: What is there to do on the boardwalk?

A: Mini golf, Shops, Amusement park, Go carts, Escape Rooms (book online at [ocescaperoom.com](http://ocescaperoom.com)) and much more. You can get more information by going online to [oceanacityvacation.com](http://oceanacityvacation.com)

On a separate note, keep Saturday, December 2 open as well. We're looking at another bus trip, this time to New York City!

## Fruit & Nut Sale Coming Soon

Some of you have asked if we will be doing the annual Fruit and Nut Sale this year and the answer is "yes." Look for more information in the August and September newsletters.

## Vacation Bible School Camps

### KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE



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

**Christian Early Learning Center**  
Developing the Whole Person - Mind, Body & Spirit  
established 2017

"North Castle" to be Knights who are growing together in our love for God.

Look for additional information on our website using the VBS tab to register your family and neighborhood kids. To volunteer to be a group leader/helper/support person for any day or 3 day camp group, please sign up for the day(s) 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 asking for 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. There will be a \$10 registration fee/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.

In June, July and August, our partnership with the St. John's Christian Early Learning Center is creating three Vacation Bible School Camps. In the June VBS Camp, we searched together for **The Shields of Truth & Faith**. 9am-12pm each day

Coming soon will be more shields of our growth in God's love, learning about **The Shields of Justice and Peace** (July 18-20) and then **The Shield of Salvation** (August 15-17). Join us at the



## What is OCWM?

Many people are uncertain or don't even know what OCWM is or does. People give to it; it appears as a line item on our church's offering envelopes; and is an option to give on our website or by text.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the name given to congregational gifts that support the wider UCC Ministry in associations, in conferences, and in the national and global church. It is divided into "Basic Support" and "4 Special Mission Offerings." If a church contributes to all five separate funds, like St. John's does, it is designated as "5 for 5" church.

OCWM's "Basic Support" provides funding from congregations for Conferences (like our own Penn Northeast Conference) and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ (Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, General Ministries, and Pension Boards).

OCWM's "Special Mission Offerings" is composed of four offerings that sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world. These offerings include: Neighbors in Need (NIN), One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church.

To learn more, visit [bit.ly/-OCWM](http://bit.ly/-OCWM)

## Water Gathering Reminder On Vacations

If you haven't picked up a small bottle to collect water from various places in your summer travels, there are still some available in a basket 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.

# POWER

It was my friend and colleague Pastor Becky who invited me to a rally of faith leaders June 2020, in the wake of George Floyd's murder. Standing there in front of Zion Reformed UCC on Hamilton Street in Allentown, I made the commitment to join POWER Interfaith. I do this work to honor the memory of my father, the Rev. George H. Yoder, a passionate advocate for justice, and I do this work to help build a better world for our grandchildren, Hazel and Casper.

On June 6 and 7, I was in Harrisburg for a statewide meeting of POWER Interfaith. As we began, I was sitting at a table with two Christian pastors, a rabbi, and a follower of Islam; each of us, compelled by our faith to work for racial and economic justice on a livable planet.

As a Christian, I ground my commitment to this work in Jesus' mission statement: ***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed."*** -Luke 4:18

On June 7, POWER members from Lancaster to Philadelphia to the Lehigh Valley, met with our respective legislators to encourage them to advocate for budget allocations that will improve the lives of poor and oppressed Pennsylvanians: fair funding for public education, an increase in Pennsylvania's minimum wage of \$7.25, and allocations to help families winterize their homes.

All of those issues, inadequate education, low wages, and substandard housing contribute to the hunger and homelessness we are seeing right here in Whitehall. We, as a congregation respond to those needs by supporting the Whitehall Food Pantry and supplying the children in our school district with necessary supplies. I am so proud of our mission outreach.

Ultimately the work of POWER begins in congregations with people of faith looking to work together with others to change conditions impacting their communities.

Please watch this video about POWER on Facebook:  
[bit.ly/POWERvideo-](http://bit.ly/POWERvideo-)

I would love to share with you more about my experiences with POWER, and to hear the concerns you have for our community. You can reach me at (484) 529-8369 or [rystephens49@ptd.net](mailto:rystephens49@ptd.net) or look for me before or after worship.

Blessings,  
 Rev Becca Stephens

### Jerusalem Singers

Joy Gravely would like everyone to know of dates for music of the Jerusalem Singers' 28th season, directed by Pete Deshler.

**7/23 7:30pm at Grace United Church of Christ**  
 902 Lincoln Ave. Northampton, PA 18067

**7/30 7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church**  
 333 Spring Garden St. Easton, PA 18042

**8/1 7:30pm at Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church**  
 3441 Devonshire Rd. Allentown, PA 18103

A free-will offering supporting "The gift of music" will be taken at the door.

### Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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

# Ice Cream Social

Don't miss the fun!  
Saturday  
July 15th



Waffles and cones will be available for purchase. Come on out and enjoy some time with family and friends, for fellowship. There will be a special appearance and music. Hope to see everyone there July 15 at the Pavilion from 1pm - 2pm. Any questions please call Kenda (484) 358-7453.

We are going to be selling Applebee's coupons - \$10.00 each which will get you a hamburger and fries. This coupon can be used at any Applebee's. There is a sign up sheet in the parlor. Money would be due at time of sign up. Any questions please see Kenda.



Also, we're looking for vendors & crafters for the Big Event on Nov. 4 in Fox Hall, 9am to 2pm. Start your christmas shopping and come see the great items that people have made. \$25 to rent a table. There are contracts in Kenda's church office mailbox if you have interest. A spot will not be guaranteed until we have a signed and paid contract. Please contact Kenda (484) 358-7453 or [kpcatalini@aol.com](mailto:kpcatalini@aol.com) to reserve your spot.

## Crafters Have Something New

St. John's Crafters have now made Tissue Box Covers, which are available for sale. Cost is \$8.00.

We are still looking for more people who can crochet. All we need is your time and talent to crochet the tops on our T- towels. Supplies will be provided.

Contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) for all sales or if you are interested in becoming part of this group.



## 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 July 1 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](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com)

## **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 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. They are looking for a few 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.



## 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're thrilled to provide another chance for those who want to join the St. John's UCC, Fullerton family of faith. Pastor Steve will be available for a casual chat after the Sunday worship services on June 18 and June 25 for anyone interested in becoming part of St. John's. If you're interested, please inform him, and he'll be sure to keep an eye out for you on 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!

On site 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!

## Climate Hope Postcard Campaign

“For the Love of Creation”

The United Church of Christ’s Climate Hope Postcard Campaign is an ambitious and exciting project rooted in the UCC’s decades long work for climate and environmental justice. The climate and environmental crises are massive and action on every level is required to turn things around. That’s why the UCC is calling on individuals, congregations, cities, towns, states and especially the federal government to finally take action.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering ten rules that, if updated, would protect millions from air, water, and climate pollution. In the midst of ongoing climate and environmental justice crises, as people of faith, we are called to heed prophetic voices and fight for a livable planet.

Now is the time for us to become more involved, join in on the Climate Hope Postcard Campaign, and send as many cards as possible to our decision-makers in Washington, DC. By doing so, we will seek government action for cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Such action could both save lives and put our nation on track to meet climate goals.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Climate Hope Postcard. We ask you to please fill out the card and return it to the church office or drop it in a box that can be found on the table in the lounge area. Additional postcards are also available. The deadline to return the cards is Sunday, July 30. This campaign is sponsored by the UCC’s Environmental Justice Ministries and St. John’s Mission Committee. For further information, visit [support.ucc.org/climatehopecards](https://support.ucc.org/climatehopecards) or [ucc.org/climate](https://ucc.org/climate)

Please be mindful of some things you can do to help preserve our planet: recycle, plant a tree, walk or carpool, stop using plastic bags, pick up litter, wash laundry in cold water, or start a compost pile.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

***“It’s me! It’s me! It’s me, O Lord, standing  
in the need of prayer!”***

This old hymn reminds us of the blessing we share with each other as we lift our prayers to God for one another. For over 15 years, prior to our COVID experience, knitters and sewers in the St. John’s family helped make prayer shawls, prayer squares, or prayer lap blankets as signs of our care and support for those in the hospital, facing cancer, or some other significant health issue. The ministers would take these gifts of support and love to persons in the congregation and remind them of the prayers of the congregation offered during worship.



These symbols became powerful reminders of our connection to God and each other. Some families have returned the prayer items at some point in their faith journey or at a loved one’s passing, so the shawl or lap blanket could be washed and shared again

with someone in need. Rev. Don Dech, a former Visitation Pastor, made the wood ladder for the shawls that is in the Elevator Foyer / Coat Room entrance of the sanctuary.

In recent years, our knitting crew has dwindled to 2-3 who help keep this ministry going. If you knit or sew and would like to be part of renewing this ministry, please contact the Church Office, (610) 264-8421, or Connie Viglione or Emilie Moyer for more information. If you would like to help with donating fabric or yarn, or help in some other way, please let us know.

We want to keep the prayers coming for our congregation and those in need. Calling all knitters and sewers... Will you help?

## July Birthdays

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 7/1 ..... Madison Musselman                                    | 7/17 ..... Margaret Reck  |
| 7/2 ..... Susan Kaider<br>Charlotte Kerrigan                   | 7/18 ..... Lucas Weidner  |
| 7/3 ..... Ryan Brobst<br>Dominic DeMilio                       | 7/21 ..... Matthew Loch   |
| 7/6 ..... Dale Brinker   | 7/22 ..... Owen Dovico<br>Jean McGonigle  |
| 7/7 ..... Wendy Fox  | 7/23 ..... Kenda Catalini<br>Stephanie Deutsch<br>Susan Gibson<br>Robert Mill                 |
| 7/9 ..... Bobbi Pope   |   |
| 7/10 ..... Marion Brown<br>Jennifer Moser<br>Corrina Schneck   | 7/24 ..... Robert Barrall<br>Dorothy Kehnel<br>Grace Mohr<br>Mary Lou Tretter<br>Diane Walter |
| 7/11 ..... Michael Gutekunst<br>Sarah Schaffer<br>Erin Troxell | 7/26 ..... Bert Smith   |
| 7/12 ..... Madison Berg<br>Glenn Buskirk<br>Jennifer Kuhns     | 7/27 ..... Michael Geissinger<br>Elwood Thompson  |
| 7/13 ..... Kathy Haggerty                                      | 7/29 ..... Barrie Carr<br>Mark Snyder   |
| 7/14 ..... Diana Beck<br>Dennis Warmkessel                     | 7/30 ..... Nancy Wagner   |
| 7/15 ..... Kathleen Bright<br>Judith Doyle<br>Carol Wuchter    | 7/31 ..... Sharon Borgman   |



## July Wedding Anniversaries

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

Robert & Sharon Czekner  
7/6/1974

Ronald & Joan Stocker  
7/11/1959

Michael & Michelle Gutekunst  
7/13/2014

Colleen & Michael Kulhamer  
7/13/1985

Charles & Teresa Schwenk  
7/16/1977

Keith & Donna Held  
7/20/1985

James & Mary Lou Tretter Sr  
7/22/1961

Anthony & Roxanne DeMilio  
7/29/1989



## Church Chuckle



A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the pastor moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder, leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the pastor smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"



## **Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Drive**

Over half of the students in the Whitehall-Coplay School District rely on full or partial subsidies for lunches. Equipping a child with the needed school supplies can be an extra burden that many parents are not able to afford. What happens then is that the teachers, out of their own pockets, provide the needed school supplies for these children. We have a wonderful opportunity to help.

Items that are needed:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| New/gently used backpacks | Colored pocket folders   |
| Refillable water bottles  | Yellow highlighters  |
| 1" 3-ring binders         | Colored pencils Tissues  |
| Loose-leaf notebook paper | Glue sticks  |
| Pencils                   | Pens (blue or black)   |
| Lunch boxes               | Disinfectant wipes   |
| Markers                   | Calculator – Texas Instruments TI-30XS Multiview                                   |
| Pencil sharpeners         | Calculator – Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS (only these 2 calculators are acceptable) |
| Reusable lunch packs/bags | Earbuds/Headphones (must be compatible with Chromebooks)                           |
| Box of crayons            |  |
| Pencil bags               |  |

Look for the collection bin in the coatroom area by the sanctuary along with a complete shopping list of school supplies. Deadline to receive items is Sunday, July 30. If you have any questions or need to have the school supplies picked up, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



## Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of July, we are collecting spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned fruit, and ground coffee. 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 giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black by email [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) or (610) 262-6114.

## 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 4pm to 6:30pm – Dine-in only. The host churches are as follows:

| Date               | Church                             | Address                     | Phone          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sunday, July 2     | St John the Baptist Church         | 3024 S. Ruch St.. Whitehall | (610) 262-2417 |
| Tuesday, July 18   | Redeemed Christian Church of God   | 5 N. Third St, Coplay       | (610) 730-3184 |
| Sunday, August 6   | Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley | 1988 Schadt Ave, Whitehall  | (703) 346-8698 |
| Tuesday, August 15 | Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church  | 3300 7th Street             | (610) 434-8661 |

## How Did St. John’s Family Do?

| Recent Outreaches          | May 2023  | YTD 2023    | YTD 2022   | YTD 2021    |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Our Church’s Wider Mission | \$921.00  | \$5,494.00  | \$7,160.10 | \$7,585.90  |
| Whitehall Food Pantry      | -0-       | \$ 1,740.00 | \$ 640.00  | \$ 1,465,00 |
| Wheat Basket               | -0-       | \$ 15.00    | \$ 25.00   | N/A         |
| Strengthen the Church      | \$ 60.00  | \$ 60.00    | -0-        | N/A         |
| Ukraine Relief Fund        | \$ 50.00  | \$ 1,180.00 | \$2,885,00 | N/A         |
| Tornado Disaster Relief    | \$ 510.00 | \$ 530.00   | N/A        | N/A         |
| General Disaster Relief    | \$ 25.00  | \$ 180.00   | N/A        | N/A         |

Mission Outreach giving for May 2023 totaled \$1,566.00 and YTD giving totaled \$10,686.00.

## General Disaster Relief Fund

Contributions received in July will go toward UCC National for "Ukraine Disaster Relief." The explosion and collapse of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine was one of the biggest industrial and ecological disasters in Europe in decades. This event happened at 2am on June 6, as a deluge of water burst through the dam that had previously held back water the size of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. This catastrophe destroyed entire villages; forced thousands of people downstream; flooded farmlands; deprived tens of thousands of people of power and clean water; caused massive environmental damage; and left irrigation systems without a source of water. Donations to help can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or by on-line and text giving. Be sure to designate "Ukraine Disaster Relief" in the memo section. You can also find General Disaster Relief envelopes on the table in the lounge area.



When you receive this newsletter, we are still collecting donations until the end of June that will go towards Project HOPE to help replace medical supplies and generators destroyed by Russian missile attacks in Ukraine. There is also an urgent need for water. A recent communication we received from Project HOPE said: "Since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, millions of Ukrainians have had limited access to clean drinking water. The Russian military has

attacked water supply and sanitation facilities; power outages have led to water cuts; and reconstruction has been complicated by the need for generators, pipe fittings, and water treatment systems. The Russian military has continued to damage the electricity pylons and electrical power stations. As a result, some villages have been without power and without access to centralized water supplies. Project HOPE began working in these regions to supply emergency drinking water. For the last five months, the team has delivered roughly 800,000 gallons of drinking water to the communities in need."

### **Other Outreaches**

We will continue to receive donations for Strengthen the Church until the end of June. This is a special mission offering of UCC National which supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. Your generosity will plant seeds for new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We received word on the final tally for the Shoe Drive at Frieden's UCC in Oley, Pa. A total of 226 bags or about 5,650 shoes were collected. The truck came on June 10 to Frieden's to pick up all the shoes. Frieden's was informed that it was the top collector of shoes in the northeast region. We are happy that St. John's was the church with the largest collection of shoes given to Frieden's—465 pairs of shoes or 22 trash bags.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards "Tornado Relief" in May," A check for \$555.00 has been sent to UCC Disaster Ministries.

### **Walkers Needed**

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](mailto:cmreck57@gmail.com)

## Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at St. John's UCC:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$552.00 to the United Church of Christ to support earthquake disaster relief in Turkey and Syria. With the help of our global and local partners, your gift helped provide welcome, shelter, respite for families, spiritual support, physical resources to rebuild their lives, and long-term recovery support. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the UCC continues to build a just world for all.

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

## STARs Team Needs Your Help

Do you know the STARs team isn't only about audio, video and slides on Sunday mornings? We have an artistic side as well! We are actually looking for actors and artistic planners to join our committee to work on writing and creating skits as a way to bring the scriptures to life. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact [sjfstars@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfstars@sjuccf.org) or Pastor Steve for the details.

The STARs team is always looking for new talent. If you are interested in learning more about how we create worship services and/or how we live stream please contact a member of the STARs team and we would be happy to show you the ropes. There are many kinds of behind-the-scenes things that we do to prepare for worship.



The  
July 2023  
edition of St. John's  
CONNECTIONS  
is sponsored by Bob Bold  
in loving memory of his  
Grandparents and Family





**St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances**  
**May 2023**

| Income                           | Electronic        | 5/7/2023          | 5/14/2023         | 5/21/2023         | 5/28/2023         | Total       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Offerings for Operating Expenses | \$6,842.66        | \$3,144.00        | \$2,626.00        | \$2,197.00        | \$2,233.00        | \$17,042.66 |
| Rental Income-Gross              |                   |                   | \$250.00          | \$2,451.00        | \$54.00           | \$2,755.00  |
| Fundraising Income-Net of Exp    |                   | \$180.00          | \$(811.30)        | \$1,755.00        | \$209.00          | \$1,332.70  |
| Endowment Interest               |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$-         |
| Flowers                          | \$26.00           | \$44.50           | \$56.50           |                   |                   | \$127.00    |
| Christian Education              | \$20.00           | \$86.00           |                   | \$29.00           |                   | \$135.00    |
| Special Gifts                    |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$350.00          | \$350.00    |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$6,888.66</b> | <b>\$3,454.50</b> | <b>\$2,121.20</b> | <b>\$6,432.00</b> | <b>\$2,846.00</b> | <b>\$-</b>  |

| Expense Summary          | Actual             | Budget             | Difference          |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pastoral Services        | \$10,542.87        | \$11,750.00        | \$(1,207.13)        |
| Staff Salaries & Expense | \$7,505.53         | \$9,364.50         | \$(1,858.97)        |
| Property                 | \$2,041.33         | \$3,093.00         | \$(1,051.67)        |
| Parish Programs          | \$2,522.22         | \$2,255.50         | \$266.72            |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$22,611.95</b> | <b>\$26,463.00</b> | <b>\$(3,851.05)</b> |

|                       | Month             | Year               |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Total Income          | \$21,742.36       | \$136,833.90       |
| Total Expenses        | \$22,611.95       | \$118,204.95       |
| <b>Net (LOSS) INC</b> | <b>\$(869.59)</b> | <b>\$18,628.95</b> |

**Mission Giving, May 2023**

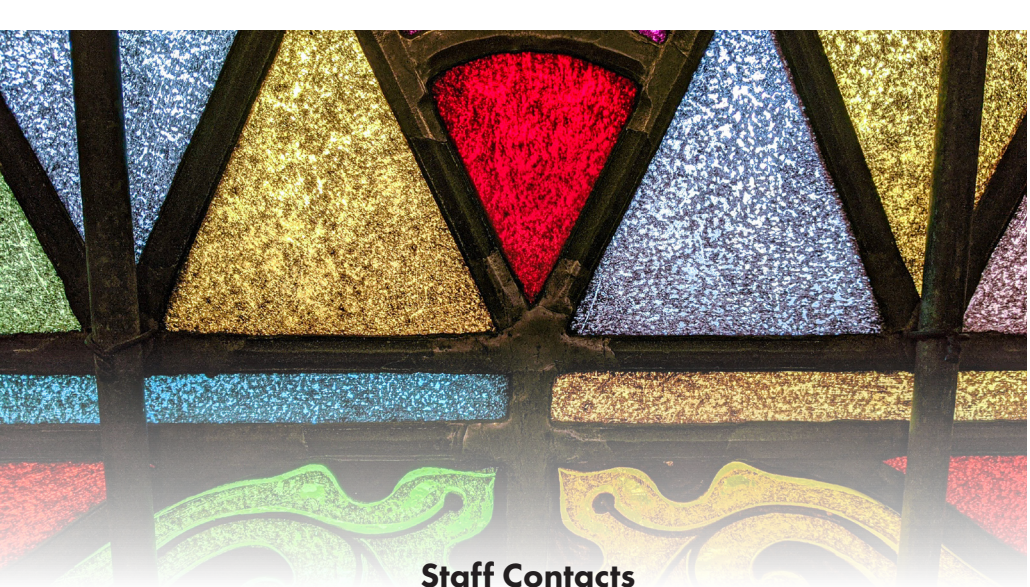
|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Our Churches Wider Mission | \$921.00          |
| Strengthen the Church      | \$60.00           |
| Disaster Relief            | \$585.00          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$1,566.00</b> |

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

| Account                          | Apr-23               | May-23               | Difference          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Checking Account-KNBT            | \$48,501.21          | \$48,797.42          | \$296.21            |
| Giant Card Funds                 | \$224.51             | \$1,524.51           | \$1,300.00          |
| Weis Card Funds                  | \$720.00             | \$1,045.00           | \$325.00            |
| sub-total General Fund Assets    | \$49,445.72          | \$51,366.93          | \$1,921.21          |
| IN & OUT Account-KNBT Checking   | \$85,422.18          | \$88,109.18          | \$2,687.00          |
| Restricted/Property Money Market | \$31,866.78          | \$31,867.05          | \$0.27              |
| sub-total Restricted Assets      | \$117,288.96         | \$119,976.23         | \$2,687.27          |
| Endowment Fund-KNBT              | \$452,480.06         | \$445,298.12         | \$(7,181.94)        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>              | <b>\$619,214.74</b>  | <b>\$616,641.28</b>  | <b>\$(2,573.46)</b> |
| Cornerstone Pavilion Loan        | \$(84,873.30)        | \$(84,649.56)        | \$223.74            |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>         | <b>\$(84,873.30)</b> | <b>\$(84,649.56)</b> | <b>\$223.74</b>     |
| <b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>          | <b>\$534,341.44</b>  | <b>\$531,991.72</b>  | <b>\$(2,349.72)</b> |







## Staff Contacts

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Senior Pastor

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

# July 2023

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                       | Friday           | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|--|------------------|---|
| <p><b>2</b> Communion Sunday<br/>9:30am Faith Formation<br/>9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>                                | <p><b>3</b></p>                                     | <p><b>4</b> Independence Day<br/>Office closed</p>  | <p><b>5</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve, Rm 201<br/>6:30pm STARS Committee Meeting<br/>6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall<br/>7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p> | <p><b>6</b></p>                                | <p><b>7</b></p>  | <p><b>1</b> 8:30am Men's breakfast:<br/>Hamilton Family Restaurant<br/>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p> |
| <p><b>9</b> Newsletter articles due<br/>9:30am Faith Formation<br/>9:30am Sunday Worship Service<br/>Receive New Members</p> | <p><b>10</b> 6:30pm Mission Committee<br/>Zoom</p>  | <p><b>11</b> 10:30am Visitation Committee<br/>1:30pm Staff Meeting<br/>6:30pm Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>                                       | <p><b>12</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve, Rm 201<br/>6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall<br/>7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>                                   | <p><b>13</b></p>                               | <p><b>14</b></p> | <p><b>15</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall<br/>1:00pm Tea Cream Social:<br/>Pavilion</p>                 |
| <p><b>16</b> 9:30am Faith Formation<br/>9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>  | <p><b>17</b> 6:30pm "Fun-Raising"<br/>Committee</p> | <p><b>18</b> 9:00am CELC/VBS Camp-Pavilion<br/>9:30pm Staff Meeting<br/>10:00am Community of Practice<br/>6:00pm Elders<br/>7:00pm Consistory</p> | <p><b>19</b> 9:00am CELC/VBS Camp-Pavilion<br/>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve, Rm 201<br/>6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall<br/>7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p> | <p><b>20</b> 9:00am CELC/VBS Camp-Pavilion</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> | <p><b>22</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall<br/>1:00pm Friendship Class Prent</p>                         |
| <p><b>23</b> 9:30am Faith Formation<br/>9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>  | <p><b>24</b></p>                                    | <p><b>25</b> 9:30am Staff meeting</p>   | <p><b>26</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve, Rm 201<br/>7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>  | <p><b>27</b> 6:30pm Property Committee</p>     | <p><b>28</b></p> | <p><b>29</b></p>  |
| <p><b>30</b> 9:30am Faith Formation<br/>9:30am Sunday Worship Service</p>  | <p><b>31</b></p>                                    |   |   |  |                  |   |