



**TYLER
SHANKWEILER**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 16 • Issue 131 • August 2023

“Everyday Miracles of Faith”

“Lord, help me spread Your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with Your Spirit and life, Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may be only a radiance of Yours. Shine through me and be so in me, that every soul I know will feel Your presence in my soul. Lord, help me spread Your fragrance wherever I go. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only You. Amen”

~ Prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Long after her passing, the life, ministry and wisdom of Mother Teresa still moved people to live their faith with greater strength and personal devotion. St. John’s friend, Julie Mertus, blessed us all in worship as she shared this prayer in song on July 9 as we welcomed 3 new persons into our family of faith. This prayer reminds us of the transformation that can happen when we open our life to be a reflection of the way, truth and life of Jesus, sharing his love and hope “wherever I go.” When we allow the One who is LOVE incarnate to have our whole life, amazing transformations of hope take place. Lives are changed, marriages strengthened, communities of people work together to accomplish more than anyone could alone. These transformations begin with those who welcome God’s love to shine through them so others see God!

During the month of August, we will be looking at some everyday miracles of faith and hear the invitation to allow the transforming Spirit of Jesus Christ to live in us, work through us and shine from our lives. Everyday miracles invite our prayer, include our advocacy, welcome our inclusion, inspire our participation, enhance our message and transform our world. Who we choose to be in the world because of the love of God we experience can bring everyday miracles into the lives of others all around us. Are we willing to be open to the Spirit like this?

May God bring about everyday miracles through each one of us, for our whole congregation and community, as we:

“Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!”

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor

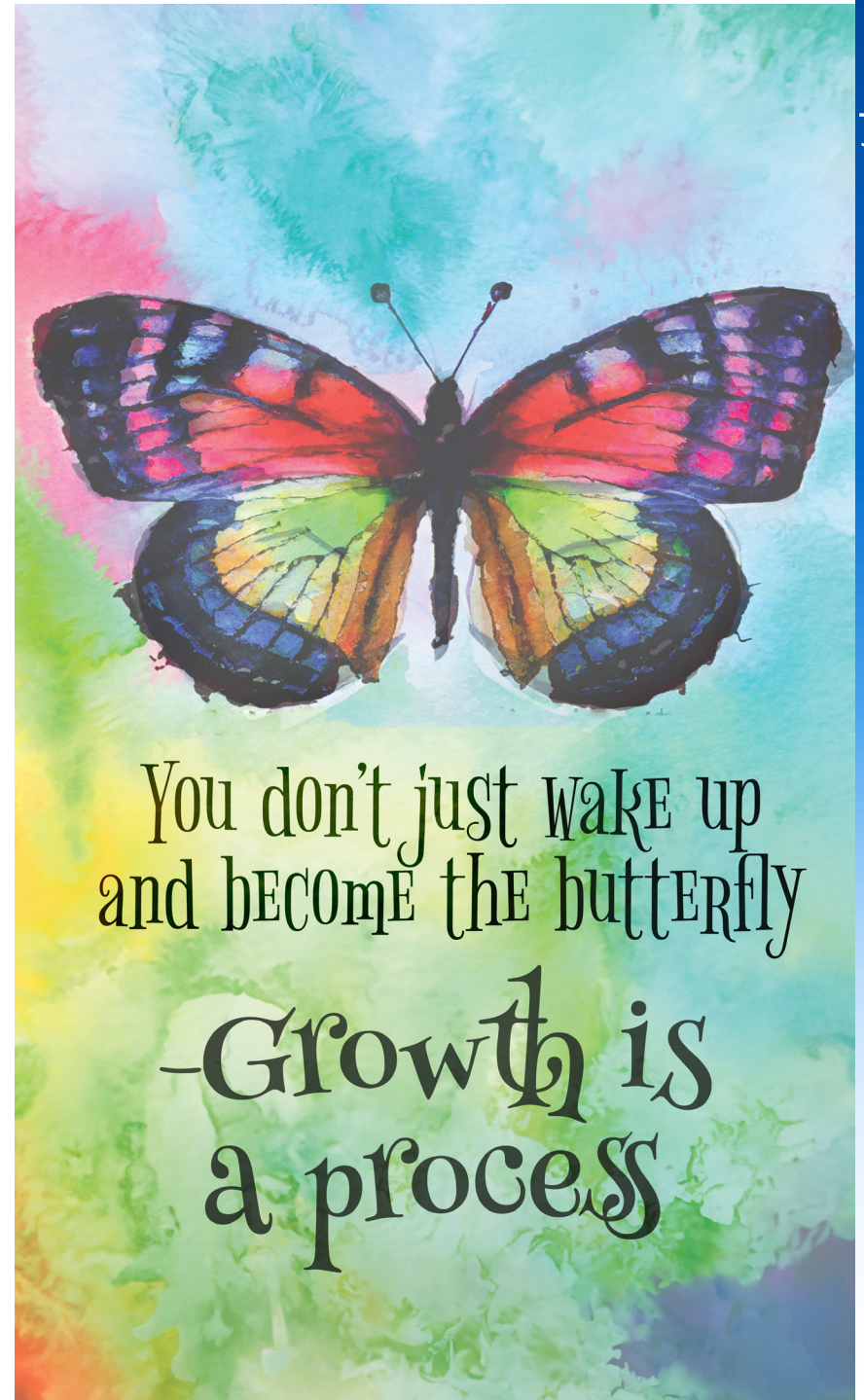


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On The Cover...



TYLER SHANKWEILER

St. John's is the root of my faith life! The people, community, and music strengthen my faith in God each day.

Since my family began worshipping here in the '50s, we have been in several positions. My great-grandfather was the music director and my great-grandmother was on the consistory, similar to my path in leadership.

My faith has benefited from my time and position in this church, and I hope this faith will carry me farther than even I can imagine.

"'The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former,' saith the LORD of hosts: 'and in this place will I give peace.' saith the LORD of hosts."
-Haggai 2:9 (KJV)

Save this Date!

Our fun Friday activities continue with our first-ever Church Family Feud game and Spaghetti night on August 18. Pastor Steve and Bill have been working on a realistic version of this game so make plans to be there. Bring friends, any group can be a team of 4-6 players. Doors open at 6, games will begin at 7:30 and end at 9:30pm.

An offering will be received toward our Furnace Loan Fund.

Dinner will include salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, tea and dessert. Everyone should make an effort to bring people, especially ones who might not regularly come to St John's. Be creative forming your team. The more folks we have in attendance, the more fun it will be!



Transformational Conversations: A New Faith Formation Opportunity!

Have you been looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith, but haven't had time to participate in an ongoing Sunday School class? Are you looking for some short-term topical conversations to enrich your development and bring transformation into your life?

Over the coming months, Pastor Steve will be leading several short-term studies that focus on our personal and collective transformation. Faith Formation is not just a Sunday morning experience, not just Sunday School, but ANY intentional work in the process of growth, the day-by-day growing in our walk of faith with God. Some will be book studies, others will be topics for conversation and shared in a forum of dialogue as we share who we are and what we understand with each other.

The first Transformational Conversation opportunity will be a book study with 5 sessions, beginning Sunday, August 7 and conclude on Labor Day Sunday, September 3. Each participant can contact the Church Office for a copy of the books which will be provided upon request. If you'd like to purchase your own, you're welcome to do so or share a contribution with the Church for Faith Formation. You can find both books inexpensively online.



<https://www.amazon.com/Four-Agreements-Practical-Personal-Freedom/dp/1878424319>

[com/Four-Agreements-Practical-Personal-Freedom/dp/1878424319](https://www.amazon.com/Four-Agreements-Practical-Personal-Freedom/dp/1878424319)

<https://www.amazon.com/Fifth-Agreement-Practical-Self-Mastery-Toltec/dp/1878424610>

[Fifth-Agreement-Practical-Self-Mastery-Toltec/dp/1878424610](https://www.amazon.com/Fifth-Agreement-Practical-Self-Mastery-Toltec/dp/1878424610)

We will explore don Miguel Ruiz's works, The Four Agreements and the followup addition written with his son, don Jose Ruiz, The Fifth Agreement. In his best selling book, don Miguel reminds us that the agreements we make with ourselves have the power to transform how we experience and live in this experience of life. Throughout our lives, we make many agreements that go against ourselves and create needless suffering. The Four Agreements help us to break these self-limiting agreements and replace them with agreements that bring us personal freedom, happiness, and love.

In The Fifth Agreement, don Miguel joins his son, don Jose, to offer a fresh perspective and a powerful new agreement for transforming our lives. The Fifth Agreement takes us to a deeper level of awareness of the power of the Self, and returns us to the authenticity we were born with. In this compelling sequel to the book that has changed the lives of millions of people around the world, we are reminded of the greatest gift we can give ourselves: the freedom to be who we really are.

To welcome as many as possible, the studies will be held on Sunday mornings from 11:00am-12:00pm following the start of our Sunday Social time in Fox Hall. All are welcome to participate or "listen in" from a nearby table. The exact same study topic will also be offered on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm in Room 201 and on Zoom. All are welcome to participate onsite or online for these short-term studies.

Deadline for September Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the September newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to our new address - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, August 13.

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>

Music is an alternate universe where people are often unrecognizable from who they are outside it! The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the true person inside us!

Vaughan Fleischfresser

St. John's Music Ministry Now Accepting Applications



The following positions are currently looking to be filled:

Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses and Handbell Ringers!

- Age Requirement:** Open to High School Students 9th Grade and Older
- Physical Qualifications:** Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the church. Must also have sufficient vision to see director twenty feet away.
- Experience:** No applications will be accepted from people who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower.
- Wages:** Satisfaction and joy in God's service
- Fringe Benefits: Social Security**—we promise you the security of social fellowship with other members of the choir.
- Hours:** Choir rehearsal Wednesday Evenings—7pm until 8:30pm
Beginning Wednesday, 8/23 in the Sanctuary
Handbell rehearsal: Wednesday Evenings—6pm until 6:40pm
Beginning Wednesday, 8/30 in the Music Room

Is a weekly commitment too much? Consider being a part of special events for the church and join us in Seasonal Membership for the seasons of Advent and Christmas and/or Lent and Easter.



- Vacation:** Missed rehearsals and church services are primarily a matter of conscience and ability to return the glares and pointed remarks of the director and other choir members.
- Retirement:** No particular age, but is generally determined by prayer, printed notes getting too small, notes too high, church too hot or cold, or Director of Music being unable to play the notes you sing.

How to apply: To find out additional information in becoming involved with the Music Ministry please contact Mr. Patrick Sandt either through email sjfmusic@sjuccf.org or by contacting the church office.

Musically Yours,
Patrick

Summer Faith Formation

During the month of August, take part in the weekly Verso-Chat Lectionary Study group, meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9am, onsite or by Zoom, or our new "Transformational Conversations" short-term study 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 Sundays for the 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.

Craft/Vendor Show in Fox Hall

Save the date
November 4, 9am-2pm

The kitchen will be open, Please come out and support our local crafters and small businesses. Start your Christmas shopping, and enjoy some fellowship. Hope to see you all there.

We are looking for more vendors, because we want to fill the place up :) We have some great vendors already and would like to add a bunch more.

Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope to Retire

Guest Pastor at our Worship Service on August 20



Come to worship on Sunday, August 20, and bid farewell to our friend, the Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope, who has served as the Regional Director of Pastoral Care and Education at Phoebe Ministries since 2011. He recently completed five years of service on the Board of Directors at the Lehigh Conference of Churches as LCC's Board Secretary. Scott is a familiar face to many of us at St. John's.

It was almost 36 years ago when Scott was ordained on August 30, 1987, at the former Dubbs Memorial UCC. He graduated from Muhlenberg College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and received his doctorate in Pastoral Care from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In the past, Scott was the pastor at the Lower Saucon UCC in Hellertown, started a new UCC church in Jacksonville, Florida, and served as Senior Chaplain and CPE Supervisor at Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.

Scott has been married for 38 years to the Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope, who is currently serving as pastor at St. Matthew's UCC in Kunkletown. Together they have four children—Tricia, Trevor, and a set of twin sons Taylor and Tim. They are also proud grandparents to two granddaughters Mariah and Karen Alice.

Scott will be retiring on September 1 and Suzanne's last Sunday at St. Matthew's will be September 3 before he and Suzanne make their way to Florida and a new home.

Join us on August 20 to hear Scott deliver the sermon and to thank him for his many years of faithful service in the ministry. A small reception for him will be held immediately following worship down in Fox Hall. It will be a time of fellowship, refreshments, and an opportunity to meet and talk with Scott and wish him well on his new adventure.



Become an "Automatic Contributor"

Currently, 50 giving units participating!

You make ministry happen with your actions. Our faithful contribution of our "time, talent and treasure" create opportunities for lives to be touched by our generosity. Will you become an "automatic contributor" by self-designating online? Your consistent support can reflect your love for God and the ministry outreach of St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

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.

In June, our Treasurer, Sue Weldner, shared hopeful news about our first 5 months of 2023. As we've moved into the summer months, our need for consistent support is vital to not lessen the gains made earlier in the year. The Stewardship & Finance Committee looks at all the monthly contribution information to see how we can best plan and budget for the expenses of our ministries. **We want to urge still 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

We are back on our lectionary reading themes for the month of August and welcome you to explore these 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 its own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words.

Verso-Chat meets on Wednesday mornings at 9am 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>



Worship Celebrations In August

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation

During the four Sundays of August, we will explore how we can experience God in everyday miracles of faith. Through the biblical miracle of Jesus multiplying loaves of bread and fish from a child to feed tens of thousands, to the miracle of healing through a woman's faith and persistence, and the journey of faith of one of our own, we will share in the magnificent work God does in and through us in our everyday miracles and affirmations of our faith.

Our August theme, Everyday Miracles of Faith, will guide us through the Gospel of Matthew and the power of God to bless us in the ordinary experiences of life with extraordinary transformation.

First Sunday Communion

August 6 - Matthew 14:13-21

"Everyday Miracles of Faith: The Key to Success"

The miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000

August 13 - Matthew 14: 22-33

"Everyday Miracles of Faith: Dad Pride"

As a prelude to August 20's Lehigh Valley PRIDE, Pastor Steve will share Rev. Diana Butler Bass' essay, "Dad Pride: It Wasn't 'Leave It to Beaver,' But It Was Family", originally published June 20, 2021.

August 20 - Matthew 15:21-28

"Everyday Miracles of Faith" - Rev. Scott Brooks-Cope preaching

Celebrate the ministry and memories of one of our dear friends in ministry and one of Dubbs Memorial UCC's own as Scott shares with us before making their way to Florida to a new home to be nearer their daughter. Let's all join in sharing our appreciation for Scott's ministry at Phoebe Homes and in the United Church of Christ.

SAVE THE DATE and PARTICIPATE!

On Sunday afternoon, August 20, celebrate with St. John's UCC, Fullerton, the Penn Northeast Conference UCC and all the Lehigh Valley for the 30th Anniversary of PRIDE in the Valley at the Bethlehem Steel Stacks for a community celebration.

August 27 - Matthew 16:13-20

Bold affirmations of faith can transform our lives and others. We will recall Peter's great declaration, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"

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!"



The "Blessed to Be a Blessing" activities include the children in the worship service through the Children's Message, and then kids and leaders go to the classroom to share in sacred circle time, a Bible story and craft. We will begin including music in September! This Faith Formation activity for children age 4 - 6th grade, takes place every Sunday! 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 in August and beyond.

Coming Soon - Annual Fruit and Nut Sale

Some of you have asked if we will be doing the annual Fruit and Nut Sale this year and the answer is "yes." We hope to have more information on pricing and what items are available in the September newsletter.

Vacation Bible School Camps

KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE



We have one additional VBS Kids Camp taking place in August through our partnership with the St. John's Christian Early Learning Center creating Vacation Bible School Camps. Our June VBS Camp theme was The Shields of Truth & Faith. In July, we shared our growth in God's love, learning about The Shields of Justice and Peace and NEXT, The Shield of Salvation (August 15-17). Join us at the "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 and share your VBS contribution. To volunteer to be a group leader/ helper/ support person for any day or all 3 days of the camp, please sign up for the day(s) which work best for you on the red display board in the parlor, or contact the Church Office.

Please visit with Rev. Becca Stephens, Susan Raricstor 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 support people, trying to raise about \$1,000 for each session. INVITE children to be part of this exciting time out at the St. John's Pavilion! There will be a \$10 suggested registration donation/child for the 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 and Christian Early Learning Center.

Water Gathering Reminder

There are still some small bottles available in a basket at the center aisle entry Welcome Table to collect water from various places in your summer travels. 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 as we end the summer months, we will present the water for blessing on our "Gathering Sunday," and begin using this water for our celebrations of baptism and other sacred moments in worship.

Thank you in advance for the many who have already helped to create a new ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world.

What is a "Whatnot" Basket?

The nimble fingers of our St. John's Crafters have been hard at work to offer you our "Whatnot" Baskets. What is that you ask? It's a great catch-all basket for you to store your TV remotes, make-up, snacks, keys, phones, pencils, pens, scissors, or whatever. The cost of our basket is \$10.00. Don't forget we also have our new Tissue Box Covers and other wonderful craft items for sale. Please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email crazzler@aol.com for all purchases or if you are interested in becoming part of this group.



Moved Through And By Your Love

Pastor Steve and Bill now have a new place to call home near the historic downtown Bethlehem area, just down the street from Trinity UCC on Center St. Steve and Bill are grateful for the many hours of labor and love shared in loading up belongings from one place and unloading them in another.

Thank you to those who could help. Great gratitude for those who prayed and shared other signs of love and support. Steve and Bill look forward to the next opportunity to have an "Open House" and welcome everyone to stop by their new home. Watch for an announcement date in worship and in the September newsletter.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Last month, a couple of people expressed interest in assisting in our Prayer Shawl Ministry. THANK YOU! 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 hope to transform and engage people in this meaningful ministry. Keep the prayers coming for our congregation and those in need. Calling all knitters and sewers... Let's sew, crochet and knit together and remind people of the power of prayer!



Join the STARs Team and Spark Creativity in Worship!

Did you know that the STARs team does more than just manage audio, video, and slides on Sunday mornings? We're also a creative powerhouse, and we need your unique talents!

We're seeking spirited actors and imaginative planners to join our dynamic committee. Help us bring the scriptures to life through innovative skits and thought-provoking narratives. Your creativity could be the spark that makes the worship experience more engaging and meaningful for our congregation.

Ready to let your talent shine? Reach out to sjfstars@sjuccf.org or Pastor Steve for more details.

But wait, there's more! The STARs team is always on the lookout for new members interested in learning the behind-the-scenes magic that goes into crafting our worship services and live streams. It's not all lights and camera, there's plenty of action too!

Interested? Get in touch with a member of the STARs team and we'd be thrilled to show you the ropes. Dive into the rewarding world of worship service preparation with us. Your backstage pass to the wonders of worship awaits!



Stay informed and up-to-date on all our worship services and church happenings! To be notified when we go live, we invite you to like, comment, share and subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj1bRzT57F9M8Qi-EdITkKA/>

Are You Concerned About Climate Change?



The Climate Hope Postcard Campaign, sponsored by the UCC's Environmental Justice Ministries, is for us to get involved by sending postcards 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 save lives and put our nation on track to meet climate goals.

Now's the time for you to act! July's newsletter contained an article and a postcard on the UCC's Climate Hope Postcard Campaign. The postcards were also placed in the worship bulletin on July 2. More postcards can be found on the table in the lounge area. Please complete the postcard and return it to St. John's. It can be mailed to the church office, put in the collection plate, or placed in the yellow box that is found on the table in the lounge area. The deadline for you to return the postcards has been extended to Sunday, August 6.

If you do not wish to participate in this campaign, please be mindful of other 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.

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Ron Glass	Marilyn Piskula
Phyllis Ambeable	Roberta Haberern	Marietta Seyfried
Anita Beil	Lucille Hicks	Madeline Slivka
Clarence Biehn	Geraldine Keim	Eleanor Smith
Jean Coombe	Adrienne Kiesbar	Bert Smith
Sandra Diefenderfer	Emma Repp Kuczek	Nancy Weaver
Shirley Downing	Elaine Lentz	Jolene Weaver
Jeanne Fischl	Jean Litzenberger	Bonnie Weikel
Milton Focht	Dale Millham	
Sally Gibson	Karen Moyer	

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

Egg Bites Recipe from Bill Castello

Ingredients: (One batch yields ~48 small-size egg bites.)

- A dozen eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream (cottage cheese can be used as an alternative)
- Pinch of salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 entire bundle of green onions, both the white and green ends
- 1/2 package of bacon, chopped into small pieces, cooked until crispy
- 1 block of Gruyère cheese, cubed into small pieces
- Pinch of red pepper flakes (optional)

Instructions:

1. Crack a dozen eggs into a blender.
2. Add 1/4 cup of sour cream (or cottage cheese), salt, pepper, green onion, chopped crispy bacon, and cubed Gruyère cheese.
3. If desired, add a pinch of red pepper flakes for some spice.
4. Blend the mixture well for at least 30 seconds.
5. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
6. Lightly coat the bottom of silicone muffin cups with cooking spray.
7. Fill each cup with the blended mixture.
8. Place a pan filled with water in the bottom of the oven to create a water bath.
9. Bake the bites for 20 minutes.
10. After baking, let cool for 2 minutes to avoid burning your fingers.
11. Enjoy them right away or store in an airtight container.
12. Avoid microwaving, as it may result in a tough texture. It's better to warm them in the oven when reheating.
13. Note: The recipe can be customized by using different types of cheese, such as Swiss or Cheddar, and adding red pepper flakes for additional heat. (Kenda suggested trying sausage instead of bacon.)

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 August 5 at 8:30am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at

(610) 393-6123 or email QVRRBold@aol.com



Home Communion - Thank You Consistory Leaders!

Congregational Caring and Support Ministry

Our Elders and Consistory leadership have taken steps to increase 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.

Rev. Steve Davis has prepared 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 welcome new persons. Let us hear from you today!

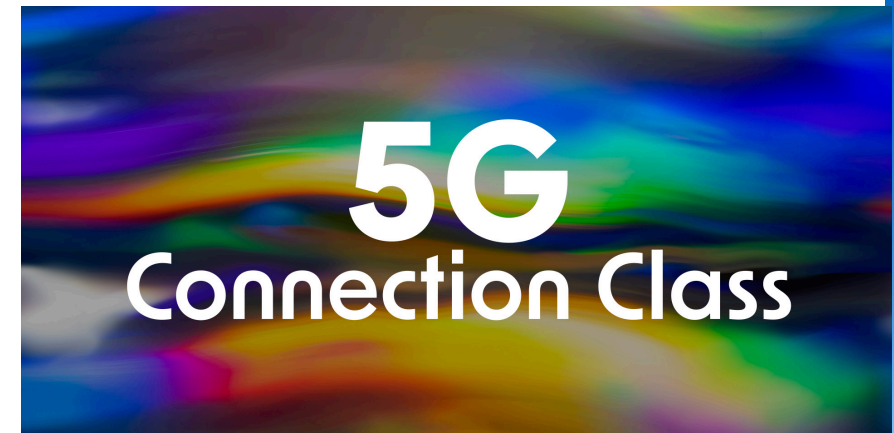
Our Visitation Committee enthusiastically serves and shares God's love, reaching out to our homebound with cards, calls and visits on a regular basis. St. John's is blessed with these dedicated persons for their faithful support and service. The Visitation Committee is looking for a few more caring people 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

Sunday, July 9, St. John's UCC, Fullerton was blessed to receive 3 new persons to join us in covenant relationship as we grow together in our faith as a congregation of Christ-followers. We rejoice to welcome Mike Borgman (his wife, Sharon, is already part of the St. John's family) as well as his parents, Rick and Roberta Borgman!

We all want a great connection with God, the church community as a whole and individual people. We GATHER, GAIN, GIVE, GROW and GO in our relationship with God and each other!



- 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!

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 on our "Gathering Sunday," September 10. Pastor Steve will meet with anyone interested in being received into St. John's in an informal time of conversation at a time convenient for you. Let him know of your interest and schedule a time to visit with him through the Church Office. Enjoy a 5G Connection today!

Sunday Transportation Connection

We have a number of St. John's persons who are no longer able to come to worship simply because they no longer drive. Many of these same persons do not have online access at home to participate with us in worship or other online activities. Their only St. John's Connection comes through home visits or hospital calls, cards and phone calls, or on the rare occasion where a family member or friend will bring them to worship with us. We'd like to change that!

If you're interested in bringing someone to worship and taking them home on a Sunday morning, please contact the church office. We will be coordinating "Transportation Connection" volunteers with our Visitation Committee to specific people who would like to come to worship. You'll have opportunity to contact the person needing transportation assistance on the Saturday afternoon before Sunday Worship to see if they're feeling up to participating. If so, get them on Sunday morning and take them home after worship. Enjoy some conversation along the way and grow our relationship connection! Who knows, you may even want to stay for the After Worship Social time or go have lunch together! Great possibilities await!

If you are a St. John's person who desires a ride to worship, please let the church office or a member of the Visitation Committee know. We would love to help you have a "Transportation Connection" to St. John's!

Ice Cream Social - Wonderful Turnout



Accessibility Matters

If you haven't noticed in recent years, St. John's has a number of active and involved persons participating in our life together, yet struggle with mobility and accessibility issues. Our elevator gives access from Grape Street to Fox Hall and the Sanctuary/ Office/ Choir/ Classroom levels. It's a vital connection opportunity for us. The Property Committee has authorized some needed repairs to keep the elevator in good operating condition.

The next step for accessibility has been approved by the Property Committee and is being presented to the Consistory to create space in the sanctuary pew seating areas for those who desire to have their walkers, rollators, wheelchairs or scooters with them to have space in the pews with the their family, rather than being in the back of the sanctuary. Pews in the choir area will be moved to the main seating area along with others previously moved to create new and welcoming spaces for all with mobility and accessibility needs. Choir seating will be changed to black padded chairs. Attention to this level of inclusion is part of St. John's commitment to being an Open and Affirming congregation.

Our Mission Statement

St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton provides a welcoming and safe place for all people to worship God, grow in faith and fellowship, and serve others and God by following the example of Jesus Christ. We believe all persons are created in God's image and are loved, valued, and blessed equally by God.

This community of faith is an open and affirming congregation who seeks to welcome, without judgment, all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances.

Everyone is invited to fully share and participate in the life, ministry, and joys of our church family.

August Birthdays

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

8/1.....Debra Altorfer Nancy Bowman Laney Headman	8/16.....Andrea Doyle
8/2.....Jay Gilbert Robert Saeger III	8/17.....Matthew Buskirk Trevor Heffelfinger Joanne Heppe
8/3.....Blayke Jordan Brianna Kuhns Joshua Mill John Viglione Matthew Young	8/18.....Jeremy Brogna
8/4.....Eric Lord Marilyn Piskula Adam Rarich Margaret Young	8/19.....Patricia Stumpp
8/5.....Regina Mohr	8/20.....Sharon Czekner Barbara Holden Lee Ann Lopez James Molinaro
8/6.....Stephanie Batdorf	8/21.....Thomas Heppe Stanley Luckenbill
8/7.....Austyn Venanzi	8/23.....Jim Carr Emma Rarich
8/9.....Kayla Bryant Jeanne Fischl	8/24.....Diane Orłowsky Jacob Verba
8/11.....Alexander Bryant Deadra Clewell Sandra Diefenderfer MaryBeth McNicholas	8/26.....Lori Silfies
8/13.....Michael Gravely	8/29.....Nancy Delp Scott Eberhart Linda Helfrich Kathryn Kaintz Jamie Santee Tyler Shankweiler
8/14.....Rev David Mohr Gregory Sommer Rev Becca Stephens	8/30.....Carole Flores Shirley George
8/15.....Angela Buskirk Noreen Muth	8/31.....Ellen Sagazio



August Wedding Anniversaries

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

Brenda & Dennis Pascoe 8/1/1970	8/19/1999
Russell & Donna Chorney 8/3/2005	Bradley & Alyssa Beckwith 8/19/2006
Robert & Annamarie Barrall 8/5/1989	Craig & Stephanie Hanzl 8/19/1989
Ryan & Michelle Brobst 8/6/2005	Richard & Margaret Baatz Sr. 8/19/1978
Gary D & Beth Neitz 8/7/2004	Andrea Doyle & Joseph Guan 8/19/2018
Stephen & Christine Reck 8/8/2015	Kathy & James Haggerty 8/20/1983
Stacy & Timothy Sommer 8/9/2003	Bruce & Bobbi Pope 8/20/1977
Donald & Robin Brensinger 8/11/1990	Charles & Linda Apple 8/21/1965
Lissa & Ken Wuchter 8/11/2017	Melissa & Kyle Szoke 8/21/2010
Brian & Stephanie Deutsch 8/14/1999	John & Connie Viglione 8/22/1964
Ted & Virginia Hess 8/15/1970	Lamar & Beverly Peters 8/22/1964
Donald & Sharon Foellner 8/15/1970	Jeffrey Phillips & Amanda Kaiser 8/23/2003
Ronald & Sandra Glass 8/16/1958	Edward & Rachel Pollitt 8/24/2002
William & Diane Orłowsky 8/18/1984	Rev David & Grace Mohr 8/30/1958
Mark & Tammy Yura	Deadra & Mark Clewell 8/31/1996





Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Drive

The Mission Committee thanks everyone for your donations to our Backpacks, Calculators and School Supplies Drive for the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There is still time left to drop off your items before the July 30th deadline. A list of items needed was in the July newsletter and on the church's website. A take-home shopping list is on the table in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. If you are unable to get to church and need someone to pick up the supplies you purchased, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of August, we are collecting ground coffee, pancake mix, and pancake syrup. 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 at gary.t.black@outlook.com or (610) 262-6114.

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 at cmreck57@gmail.com

General Disaster Relief Fund

Contributions received in August will go to World Central Kitchen for "Ukraine Disaster Relief." WCK has provided hundreds of millions of meals in Ukraine and seven other countries where refugees fled in search of safety. With more aid organizations now present in large population centers, WCK teams are able to focus on supporting the most isolated, at risk, and hardest hit regions of the country. Food needs are shifting as the conflict enters a new phase, so WCK is prioritizing efforts aimed at supporting communities caught between the fighting to provide nourishing meals to the people who need them the most—as soon and as safely as possible.

Today, lack of consistent access to food impacts specific regions, mostly in the east and south along the frontlines where fighting rages on. WCK, through their Emergency Response Team, is meeting the most pressing needs of families living through some of the darkest times imaginable. By car, by foot, and by boat, WCK is reaching people impacted by the Kakhovka dam disaster. They are seeing neighbors come together to help one another.

Donations to can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or by on-line and text giving. Be sure to designate "WCK-Ukraine" in the memo section. You can also find General Disaster Relief envelopes on the table in the lounge area.



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, Aug 6	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave, Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, Aug 15	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th Street	(610) 434-8661
Sunday, Sept. 3	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, Sept 19	TBD	-	-

Other Outreaches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to **Project HOPE** in June. A total of **\$210** was received. The funds will be used to replace medical supplies, drinking water, and generators destroyed by Russian missile attacks in the Ukraine.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Strengthen the Church** offering. A total of **\$220** was received. This special mission offering of UCC National supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. Your generosity helped plant seeds for new churches, awakened new ideas in existing churches, and developed the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

How Did St. John's Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	June 2023	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$931.00	\$6,453.00	\$8,480.00	\$8,890.90
Strengthen the Church	\$ 160.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 170.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 375.00	\$2,115.00	\$ 690.00	\$1,540.00
Ukraine Relief Fund	\$ 130.00	\$1,310.00	\$2,935.00	N/A
General Disaster Relief	\$ 30.00	\$ 210.00	N/A	N/A
Wheat Basket	-0-	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	-0-

Mission Outreach giving for June 2023 totaled \$1,626.00 and YTD giving totaled \$12,312.00.



- Office help is needed for September 11-15 and 20-22, when Alison will be out of the office. Last year, we split this into two shifts a day, from 8:30-11:30am and noon to 3pm. If you would like to help out by working a shift, please contact the church office.
- If you or another member you know are admitted to the hospital, please let the hospital know St. John's Code # is 473.
- Here is another way you can support St John's UCC, Fullerton this month. Turn in your grocery shopping receipts from Redner's and St. John's receives a percentage. It's so easy and every effort helps tremendously!
- Weis and Giant Gift cards are still available for purchase and St. John's receives 5% of all purchases. What a great and easy way to support our church!
- St. John's UCC Fullerton's Pavilion located at 575 Grape St. in Whitehall, PA is now open and ready for your events! Please call the church office at (610) 264-8421 to reserve your day and time now!



Have You Returned Your Climate Hope Postcard?



Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at St. John's UCC:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$125.00 to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives. Working through a network of global and local partners, the church lives out its call to care for our neighbors as we strive together toward a just world for all.

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

Batter Up!

There will be 63 St. John's baseball fans going to the IronPigs game on Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05pm. The IronPigs will be playing the Buffalo Bisons. Our church member Nancy Bowman has been chosen to throw out the First Pitch.

Applebee's Hamburger and Fries coupons are being sold now as a fundraiser for St John's. We are asking for payment up front of \$10 each. They do not expire and are accepted at all Applebees locations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to: ask Kenda, call (484) 358-7453 or email kpcatalini@aol.com



Church Chuckle



Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the pastor's office while the choir was practicing.

Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed.

"Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the pastor heal you by faith?"

"No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"

What kind of person was Boaz before he got married? ... Ruthless!

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "Well, they certainly will in a minute!"

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
Jun 2023

Income	Electronic	6/4/2023	6/11/2023	6/18/2023	6/25/2023	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,326.40	\$3,224.00	\$1,320.00	\$3,094.00	\$2,563.00	\$16,527.40
Rental Income--Gross				\$1,225.90		\$1,225.90
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$(45.00)	\$325.00	\$4,091.27	\$125.00	\$4,496.27
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers						\$-
Christian Education	\$10.00					\$10.00
Special Gifts					\$206.81	\$206.81
Total	\$6,336.40	\$3,179.00	\$1,645.00	\$8,411.17	\$2,894.81	\$-

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$9,982.55	\$11,751.00	\$(1,768.45)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,565.37	\$9,456.50	\$(891.13)
Property	\$2,053.24	\$2,343.00	\$(289.76)
Parish Programs	\$3,029.89	\$1,880.50	\$1,149.39
Total	\$23,631.05	\$25,431.00	\$(1,799.95)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$22,466.38	\$159,300.28
Total Expenses	\$23,631.05	\$141,836.00
Net (LOSS) INC	\$(1,164.67)	\$17,464.28

Mission Giving, Jun 2023

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$941.00
Strengthen the Church	\$160.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$375.00
Ukraine Relief	\$130.00
Disaster Relief	\$30.00
Total	\$1,636.00

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

Account	May-23	Jun-23	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$48,797.42	\$46,385.19	\$(2,412.23)
Giant Card Funds	\$1,524.51	\$1,524.51	\$-
Weis Card Funds	\$1,045.00	\$1,820.00	\$775.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$51,366.93	\$49,729.70	\$(1,637.23)
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$88,109.18	\$87,217.54	\$(891.64)
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,867.05	\$31,867.31	\$0.26
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$119,976.23	\$119,084.85	\$(891.38)
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$445,298.12	\$445,298.12	\$-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$616,641.28	\$614,112.67	\$(2,528.61)
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(84,649.56)	\$(84,542.52)	\$107.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(84,649.56)	\$(84,542.52)	\$107.04
NET FUND BALANCE	\$531,991.72	\$529,570.15	\$(2,421.57)



Staff Contacts

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

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

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 9:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Iron Pigs Game</p>	<p>2 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm STAR: Committee Meeting 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8:30am Men's breakfast: Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>13 Newsletter articles due 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance</p>	<p>9 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>20 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p>21 6:30pm "Fun-Raising" Committee</p>	<p>15 9:00am CELC/NBS Camp-Pavilion 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>16 9:00am CELC/NBS Camp-Pavilion 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>17 9:00am CELC/NBS Camp-Pavilion</p>	<p>18 6:00pm Churchfamilyfeud game and Spangneith night</p>	<p>19 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>27 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p>22 9:30am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>24 6:30pm Property Committee</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>	
	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music</p>	<p>30 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>31</p>		