



**JIM
EBERT**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 16 • Issue 132 • September 2023

“Sanctuary”

Some days, do you want to find a place to “get away from it all?” to find your peace in the storm and your safe space? In recent years, I’ve seen friends, colleagues and family members who have “taken a break” from social media. Unplugging is something we all want to do from time to time to catch our breath and find our personal sanctuary, a place of refuge or safety.



By definition, “sanctuary” can be a sacred or holy place, a place set apart from the profane, ordinary world. Originally, sanctuaries were natural locations, such as groves or hills, where the divine or sacred was believed to be especially present. In many settings today, finding sanctuary has come to mean a place of protection or a safe place, especially for someone or something being chased or hunted; immigrants sought, found and took sanctuary in a local place of worship. Those sacred places are often honored, even by law enforcement and governments as a sanctuary for the refugees.

Many of us have enjoyed some time away from the hustle and bustle of daily routines during the summer months and enjoyed some great vacation destinations or even some “staycations.” We have appreciated the time to unplug from some aspects of life and reconnect with things, people, activities and places which sustain, strengthen and renew our spirits and refresh our souls. We’ve found “sanctuary” from the partisanship of the political news. We’ve found

“sanctuary” from the harshness of the daily grind. We’ve found “sanctuary” in the beauty of nature and the great expanse of the oceans, mountains and plains. We’ve found “sanctuary” holding another life in our hands and arms, petting our fur family members and even watching our children sleep.

Experiencing “Sanctuary” is not only what we have found or where we are. Sanctuary is experienced in what we choose to create in the world. How we interact, the words we speak in conversations, what we share online, how we engage and bring transformation to the issues and world around us. “Sanctuary” is not just what we find out there somewhere. Sanctuary is who we are, who God’s grace fashions us to become, who Christ’s love helps us reach, who the Holy Spirit’s light helps us to see and stand up for differently.

“Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary” (1982) is a Christian hymn composed by Randy Scruggs and John Thompson. The tune for this hymn is called “SANCTUARY”.

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living Sanctuary for You.**

May God create “sanctuary” for us, in us and 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,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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On The Cover...



JIM EBERT

Thank you for considering me, for the St. John’s version of the “Cover of the Rolling Stone”

My wife, Janet, and I joined St. John’s in October, 2017, after the closing of my childhood church, Trinity UCC Coplay, PA in August of 2017. We had been introduced to St. John’s years earlier when St. John’s Pastor Emeritus Aaron Fox, became Trinity’s supply pastor for over ten years.

I have been a member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee since 2018. Janet and I volunteer monthly at the Whitehall Food Pantry at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Whitehall and help with St. John’s “fun-raising” events. We also enjoy our Adult Faith Formation classes every Sunday and our Wednesday morning Verso-Chat sessions via ZOOM with Pastor Steve.

I find St. John’s to be a very active, loving, caring, generous, spiritual family of faith, and am extremely happy to be a member here.

Welcome the Newest ONA Church to the Penn Northeast Conference!

Please join us in welcoming Heidelberg Union Church in Slatington, PA, as a newly-certified Open and Affirming congregation! The church is served by Rev. Michelle Funk as pastor.

As ONA church #1,831, Heidelberg Union Church is now part of the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world! We’re proud of the congregation and grateful to the church’s leadership for the hard work that led to this milestone in their history.



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Music at St. John's

Where has the time gone? It feels just like yesterday the choir season was ending and a relaxing summer was just beginning! I feel like we blinked and now here comes fall!

As the music ministry, handbell members and choir, begin to reassemble after a nice break and nestle into our weekly routine, I can't help but share something I read over the summer that truly sums up my personal belief in music and why it so special not only to myself, but to those who continue to chase their passion and dreams.

This quote from David Ackert appeared in the LA times:

"Musicians are some of the most driven, courageous people on the face of the earth. They deal with more day-to-day rejection in one year than most people do in a lifetime. Every day, they face the financial challenge of living a freelance lifestyle, the disrespect of people who think they should get real jobs, and their own fear that they'll never work again. Every day, they have to ignore the possibility that the vision they have dedicated their lives to is a pipe dream. With every note, they stretch themselves, emotionally and physically, risking criticism and judgment. With every passing year, many of them watch as the other people their age achieve the predictable milestones of normal life – the car, the family, the house, the nest egg. Why? Because musicians are willing to give their entire lives to a moment – to that melody, that lyric, that chord, or that interpretation that will stir the audience's soul. Musicians are beings who have tasted life's nectar in that crystal moment when they poured out their creative spirit and touched another's heart. In that instant, they were as close to magic, God, and perfection as anyone could ever be. And in their own hearts, they know that to dedicate oneself to that moment is worth a thousand lifetimes."

Maybe it is time for those who are hesitant to come share in creating incredible moments on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings? The door of possibility is always open.

Musically Yours,

Patrick

St. John's Music Ministry Proudly Presents
**The Parkland High School
Strolling Strings**



Directed by Brian Mischler

Sunday - October 22, 2023 - 2pm

In Case You Missed It...

Pastor Becky Beckwith had an article posted in the "Faith and Values" column of the Morning Call on Saturday, August 5 inspired by Psalm 23:4, entitled "Overcoming Fear by Facing It Honestly and Directly."

<https://www.mcall.com/2023/04/01/palm-sunday-ride-of-life/>



Transformational Conversations: A New Faith Formation Opportunity!

Growth that is transformational happens as we act on our intentions. We don't just "hope to grow" in our faith, we take steps to learn about things that stretch us, inspire our imaginations and challenge our understanding with the possibility of being better, more informed, whole and transformed by our experience. We take the time to be in conversation with others, to listen for God's Spirit, to open our own spirit to what God might have in store for us.

Transformational Conversations can happen any time! If you are interested in being part of a short-term topical conversation, leading a 2-4 week book study, presenting a cause for consideration or raising an issue for us to discern in dialogue together, please contact Pastor Steve.

We want to create opportunities for connection and sacred conversation, beyond the monologue or a sermon or the lecture style of a class, to engage with each other with the possibility of better understanding each other, topics and needs in our faith and world.

- 1 BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD**
Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the Word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your Word in the direction of and love.
- 2 DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY**
Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.
- 3 DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS**
Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really mean. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.
- 4 ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST**
Your best is going to change from moment to moment. It will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick, under any circumstance, single or married, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-blame, and regret.
- 5 BE SKEPTICAL AND LEARN TO LISTEN**
Don't believe yourself or anybody else. Use the power of doubt to question everything you hear. Is it really the truth? Listen to the intent behind words, and you will understand the real message.

The 5 Agreements

If you've been looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith, but haven't had time to participate in an ongoing Sunday School class, consider being part of one of the upcoming Transformational Conversation events. 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.

Due to some scheduling needs our first offering, The Four Agreements and The Fifth Agreement book studies will be continuing into September. The extended dates are on the website calendar of happenings. Contact Pastor Steve or the Church Office for more information. Books are available to purchase. The group will be gathering on Sundays following the Sunday Social time, with a "repeat opportunity" on Thursday evenings for those not available on Sundays and for scheduling flexibility. Thursday evenings are on site and on Zoom. Call or email the Church Office for the link.

VBS & CELC Kids Camps Fun!

We had such great fun for all three summer sessions of VBS/ Kids Camps in partnership with our St. John's UCC, Christian Early Learning Center. Director Jazmin Smith and her staff and volunteers from St. John's created memorable times of joy exploring our faith!

If you attended one of the three camp events, t-shirts are on order and will be arriving soon. We will share them at CELC and have them available in the church office for you to pick up. Thank you once again to all who helped make this summer learning a time to grow together with the Shields of Truth and Faith, Justice and Peace and the Shield of Salvation! We are grateful for your time, your support and generosity. It's not too late to help offset some of the expenses of this summer's program. Make your donation today and note VBS!





FALL SCHEDULE

Worship Celebrations In September

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

In September, we will share the many ways in which we experience God's presence and peace as our "sanctuary." We will begin with a joy-filled day of Worship in Song on Music Sunday, September 3! The celebration of "sanctuary" continues on September 10, our Gathering Sunday, where we will share in consecrating the many bottles of water gathered from all across the country and internationally! This water will be used in baptisms as we remember our place in the family of God!

1st Sunday Communion & Music Sunday

September 3 - Romans 12:9-21

"Sanctuary" - Our Faith Expressed in Music

We gather to celebrate our faith in the power and joy of music and singing, sharing hymns which have shaped our faith as we celebrate God's gifts to us in holy communion.

Gathering Sunday**September 10 - Psalm 149 & Matthew 18:15-20****“Sanctuary” - Our Faith Expressed in Community**

We gather to be blessed as a community as friends and neighbors who become the Beloved Community.” We will share in consecrating the waters gathered from all across the country.

September 17 - Psalm 103:1-8 & Romans 14:7-12**“Sanctuary” - Our Faith Expressed in Covenant**

We gather to celebrate the ministry we share in covenant with all the saints, as we worship, love and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

September 24 - Psalm 105:1-6 & Philippians 1:21-30**“Sanctuary” - Our Faith Expressed in Purposefulness**

We gather to acknowledge and support each other in our struggles, as we walk in faith through difficult days and days of great praise. We are the people of Christ, gathered to be “sanctuary” with and for each other.

Friendship Sunday School Class Schedule**Adult Faith Formation this Fall****Sundays at 8:30am, Room 201**

The Friendship Class returns to the Sunday morning schedule starting September 10. This adult class shares a variety of topics and lessons from scripture to strengthen our walk in faith and our relationships with each other.

Blessed To Be A Blessing**Children’s Faith Formation (Age 4 - 5th Grade)****Sundays at 9:30am for Worship, then to Room 101**

The Children will continue their faith formation by gathering with the Church family in worship through the Children’s Message, then moving to their Sacred Circle, Story, Craft, and Blessing downstairs in Room 101. This Fall, the children will enjoy something new to add to their creative experience of faith formation, “Building Faith Brick by Brick” will be part of our lessons!

Confirmation Class Begins October 1

Youth Faith Formation (6th, 7th & 8th Graders)

Sundays at 11:00am following the Sunday Social time, then 3rd Floor Youth Room

Confirmation is an important time in the faith of a young person. At baptism, parents make a promise to raise their child with Christian principles and to bring them to the time when they are able to affirm their baptism – that is confirmation.

This Fall, we will once again have a Confirmation Class, meeting on Sunday morning from 11:00 to 12:30, beginning October 1, 2023. Registration will be in church on September 10 and 17, and will soon be available online. An orientation meeting will be held at 11:00am on September 24 for the student and at least one parent. We will go over the program and expectations.

We are preparing a class schedule and requirements for the year, with the Confirmation process continuing with a one-program-per-year class, rather than for two years as had been done previously. Our 6th grade youth will be welcome to participate without the same requirements of the Confirmands in either 7th or 8th grade. Those in either 7th or 8th grade from previous confirmation classes are welcome to participate as well and join with other youth in renewing your faith.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact the church office, (610) 264-8421, or email Pastor Steve sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org We welcome you to explore faith, the history of St. John's UCC, Fullerton and the journey we share in God's love!



Other Faith Formation Events

Throughout the year, you can 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. These special 2-3 session gatherings offer opportunity for dialogue, sharing ideas and inspiration to strengthen our life 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 new book study? Would you like to lead or be part of a “Reflection Time”? Reach out to Pastor Steve to share topics you'd be interested in discussing.

Faith Formation continues beyond Sunday morning gatherings. Transformational Conversations and other Faith Formation opportunities can happen afternoons, evenings, and other days during the week. Perhaps you might want to be part of a table conversation in our Sunday Social time and grow in fellowship and faith together.

Sacred Voices in Concert

“From lament to praise: The Psalms”

Sunday, September 24 at 4pm at Union Lutheran Church, 5500 Rt 873 Schnecksville, PA. Joy Gravely will be performing with the choir, directed by Susan L. Frickert. Contact Joy for tickets (610) 573-1275 or gravelyjoy@gmail.com



Home Communion - Making Connections

Congregational Caring and Support Ministry

Over the summer months, our Elders and Consistory leadership and our Visitation Committee members and Pastor Steve have continued making visits and sharing holy communion, as well as making calls, sending cards, visiting homes, hospitals and care centers. It has been our joy to share the blessings of a congregation that is caring and supportive of our people in these various stages of life need.

Our Visitation Committee is always glad to have people participate in making connections in our congregation. They enthusiastically serve and share 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. If you enjoy connecting with people and bringing a bit of joy into someone's day, consider participating in this meaningful ministry outreach. Pat Thompson leads this important ministry and she or Pastor Steve will be glad to share how you can participate.

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!

As we work to re-imagine our visitation and congregational care support in 2024 and beyond, 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.

Better Than Uber - 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!

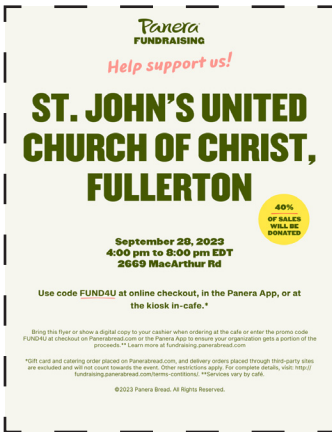
If you're interested in bringing someone to worship and taking them home on a Sunday morning, please contact the church office. We will be coordinating "Transportation Connection" volunteers with our Visitation Committee to specific people who would like to come to worship. You'll have opportunity to 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!

Sunday Morning Social Time “Hosts” This Fall

Would you be willing to “host” a Sunday Social time in Fox Hall? We have so enjoyed our time together and grown in participation over the summer. Let’s keep the fun and friendship going this Fall, 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. Remember, this is social time, with a light snack and conversation, not a banquet spread and lunch! Colleen and Kenda will help you with whatever you might need to know.

Panera Bread Supports St. John’s



Show this image on your smartphone, or click to print a copy. Panera Bread will pay 40 percent of your food purchase to St John’s. <https://bit.ly/PaneraSJF>

This offer is valid on Monday, September 28 - ONLY!

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel
Phyllis Ambearle
Anita Beil
Clarence Biehn
Jean Coombe
Sandra Diefenderfer
Shirley Downing
Jeanne Fischl
Milton Focht
Sally Gibson

Ron Glass
Roberta Habernern
Lucille Hicks
Geraldine Keim
Adrienne Kiesbar
Emma Repp Kuczek
Elaine Lentz
Jean Litzenberger
Dale Millham
Karen Moyer

Marilyn Piskula
Marietta Seyfried
Madeline Slivka
Eleanor Smith
Bert Smith
Nancy Weaver
Jolene Weaver
Bonnie Weikel

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

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

IN THE NEW PAVILION

Saturday, September 9
8:00am-2:00pm



St. John's
UCC, FULLERTON

(610) 264-8421

575 Grape Street
Whitehall, PA 18052

ALL ARE WELCOME!

\$10 for your own table
\$15 to use St. John's table

Food and delicious baked goods available!

For more information, contact Brian Strauss
strauss1975@aol.com

Deadline for October Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the October newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, September 10.

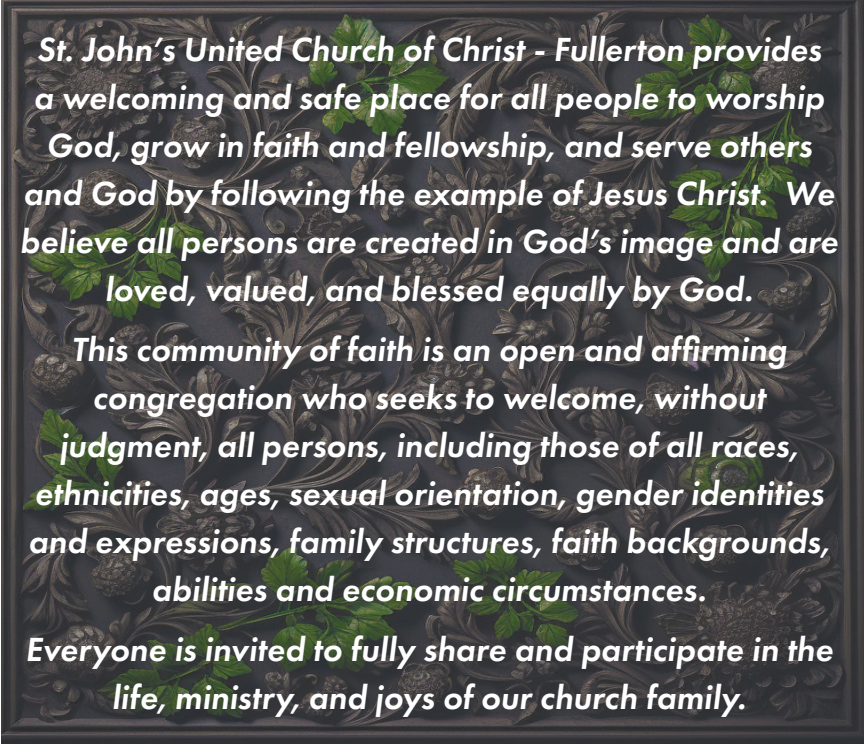
Look for the Crafters...

St. John's Crafters Group will be at the Pavilion for the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 9, from 8am to 2pm. We have lots of handmade household decorations, kitchen items, baby items, 12-bean soup mix, and cookbooks. Check out our newest items: fabric baskets, tissue box covers, patchwork table runners, fabric shopping bags, and bowl cozies. Get a jump start on your Christmas shopping.

Save The Date + Share it With Friends

Our Holiday Craft/Vendor Fair will be November 4 from 9am to 2pm. Come start your Christmas shopping or stock up on things that you need for yourself. The kitchen will be open for food purchases.

Any questions, please see Kenda or call (484) 358 7453 or kpcatalini@aol.com



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.

JOIN OUR CRAFTERS AND VENDORS FAIR

November 4

Fox Hall - 575 Grape St

9am til 2pm

Rent a table for only \$25! Limited spots available.

To reserve yours, contact Kenda:

(484) 358-7453 or kpcatalini@aol.com

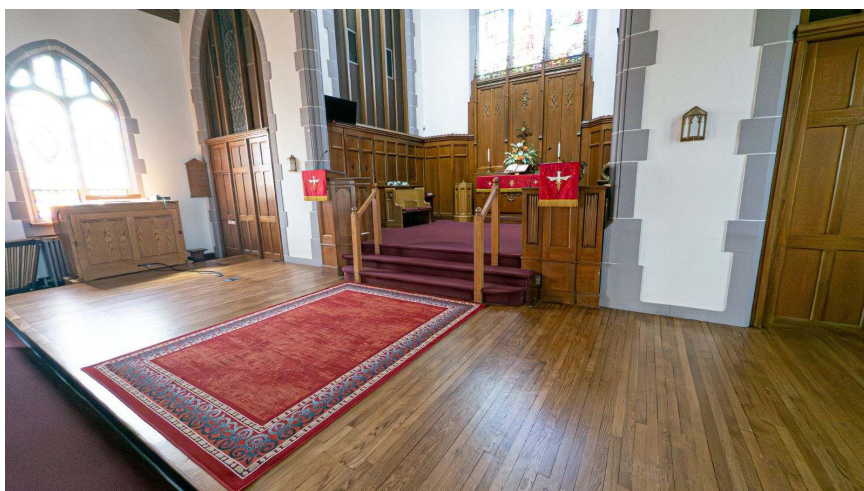


St. John's
UCC, FULLERTON

TO SECURE YOUR SPOT, YOU MUST PROVIDE A
SIGNED AND PAID CONTRACT, SUBMITTED BY 9/2/2023.

Why Accessibility Matters

Over the past several weeks, members of the Property Committee, with the approval of the Consistory, voted to make some changes in the sanctuary to better accommodate the needs of our participants and guests in worship. We are grateful to God for the talented craftsmanship of Wayne Lichtenwalner and Bill Castello who spent 2 weeks, morning til night, working to refinish our floors and create a new look for our worship space. Thank you to the other men who came to move pews. Thank you to all of you who have shared your appreciation for the hard work and vision that has been lovingly offered. These craftsmen saved us over \$2,500-4,000 in labor alone. Please take a moment to express your gratitude for their labors of love.



We have all seen our St. John's people who are 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. Yet, we knew we could do more to enhance our vital connection, whether up front or in the pews.

We have chosen to intentionally create more open space in the sanctuary choir and lower chancel area, as well as in pew seating areas for those who desire to have their walkers, rollators, wheelchairs or scooters with them. We're making intentional space for families with people who have additional mobility needs to be able to sit together.

Some have already tried out the “new seating options,” while others have been patient to embrace a new place to sit in worship from their previous pew. (Yes, we are creatures of habit and change isn’t easy, but we can do it!)

In the coming days, we will post information about how you can acquire one of the pews or a bench portion. For the woodworkers in the congregation, this is a great opportunity to have a piece of St. John’s history in your home. The Property Committee leaders will soon share how you can make your donations for one of the pews or benches.

Our choir members will soon have new padded chairs. You are welcome to join the choir and enjoy these wonderful new seats. Attention to this level of inclusion is part of St. John’s commitment to being an Open and Affirming congregation.



Celebrations from the PNEC Board – July 2023

A portion of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) offering supports the work of the Penn Northeast Conference. We celebrate the dedication and achievements of the following PNEC's Ministry Teams, Committees, and Committee on Ministry:

Spiritual Development Ministry Team... We want the Conference to celebrate: Even though it was a small group that attended the Annual Youth Retreat, it was agreed by all in attendance to be worth the time and there is a desire for more ways to connect.

Committee on Ministry... We want the Conference to celebrate: The time these committees invest into the work that needs to be done to accomplish our goal(s). Sometimes, we may feel it is more than what we initially thought, but we follow through to have the best result(s) possible.

Congregational Vitality Minister Team... We want the Conference to celebrate: The return of Vitality Days. These were energizing events when they took place before COVID. This will be the first one. Please pray it will be fruitful for those who participate. The innovative new educational resource that we are undertaking with Local Congregational Support Working Group (LCSWG). To have videos available for churches and their congregants to access whenever they need them will be a blessing.

GEM Fund Ministry Team... We want the Conference to Celebrate: A new ministry start called 50Plus at St Thomas UCC, Bethlehem which will provide ministry and support for the community.

Disaster Relief Ministry Team... We want the Conference to celebrate: The award of a \$20,000 grant from the National Office to replace the only access for an elderly gentleman in Bradford County. The response of Karl Jones and Gary Barraco to the Ferry Street fire in Easton.

GTW Scholarship Fund Ministry Team... We want the Conference to celebrate: At their March 22 meeting, the Team considered 17 applications and awarded \$35,600 in scholarships.

Local Congregational Support Working Group... We want the Conference to celebrate: The fact that so many people are willing to serve, if they are recruited with enthusiasm and conviction. We need to believe that what we are doing truly makes a difference in the life of the church.

Staff and Personnel Committee... We want the Conference to celebrate: The successful sabbatical coverage provided by the Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith and the seamless return of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates.

Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries

We congratulate the following pastors who will celebrate the anniversaries of their ordinations in September:

Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith – 26th Anniversary

ordained September 14, 1997

Rev. George Eckstein – 51st Anniversary

ordained September 21, 1972

Rev. David Quinn – 37th Anniversary

ordained September 25, 1986

Rev. Matthew Seeds – 15th Anniversary

ordained September 28, 2008

Rev. Becca Stephens – 31st Anniversary

ordained September 27, 1992

Fall Walking Challenge

It's hard to believe we are already looking forward to our Fall Walking Challenge. The dates are September 24 through October 21. I hope you all sign up!

How many steps can St. John's walkers do in four weeks? You always amaze me. Keep in mind, the Crop Walk is October 22. Please make a donation for that to Carol Raszler. It's going to be another fun time. I'll be in touch.

Sharon Antrim
sharonantrim@yahoo.com
Healthcare Ministry

Thinking About Getting More Involved at Church?

With the start of September and church activities getting back into the swing of things after the summer, you may find that being part of the Mission Committee is where you can participate more in the life of the church. Do you have some good ideas to share or want to become involved in our outreach programs? The Mission Committee meets about six times a year with all our meetings conducted on Zoom. Our next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, at 6:30pm via Zoom. If you would like to sit in on a meeting to observe and learn more, please contact the church office for the link and passcode.

Continue

A blessing by Maya Angelou

My wish for you
is that you continue

Continue
to be who and how you are
to astonish a mean world
with your acts of kindness

Continue
to allow humor to lighten the
burden of your tender heart

Continue
In a society dark with cruelty
to let the people hear the
grandeur of God in the peals
of your laughter

Continue
to let your eloquence
elevate the people to heights
they had only imagined

Continue
to remind the people that
each is as good as the other
and that no one is beneath
nor above you

Continue
to remember your own young
years and look with favor
upon the lost and the least
and the lonely

Continue
to put the mantle of your
protection around the bodies of
the young and defenseless

Continue
to take the hand of the despised
and diseased and walk proudly
with them In the high street
some might see you and
be encouraged to do likewise

Continue
to plant a public kiss of concern
on the cheek of the sick
and the aged and infirm
and count that as a natural
action to be expected

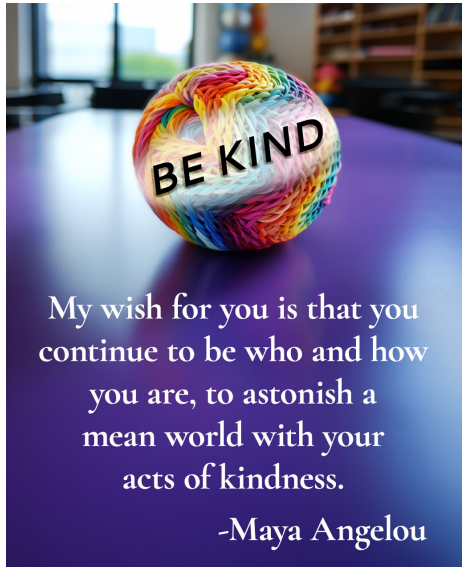
Continue
to let gratitude be the pillow
upon which you kneel to
say your nightly prayer
and let faith be the bridge
you build to overcome evil
and welcome good

Continue
to ignore no vision
which comes to enlarge your
range and increase your spirit

Continue
to dare to love deeply
and risk everything
for the good thing

Continue
to float happily in the sea of
infinite substance
which set aside riches for you
before you had a name

Continue
and by doing so
you and your work
will be able to continue
Eternally



My wish for you is that you
continue to be who and how
you are, to astonish a
mean world with your
acts of kindness.

-Maya Angelou



Become an "Automatic Contributor"

Currently, 50 giving units participating!

Each week in worship, Pastor Steve reminds us of the ways which our giving to God through St. John's is changing lives and making a difference in our community. As we return to our Fall routines, we encourage everyone who is not currently a "Automatic Contributor" to give it a try. Our ministry each week depends on our regular participation, involvement and giving. Few actually "catch up" in their giving when they've not been participating in worship. As "Automatic Contributors" our gifts enable ministry with the faithful contribution to 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.

In September, our Treasurer, Sue Weldner, will begin budget preparations for 2024 with our Stewardship and Finance Committee. In October, she will give us an update on our "financial fitness" as we see the opportunities to grow our community of faith.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee look 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

Those who participate in the weekly lectionary readings review have the opportunity to help Pastor Steve shape the Sunday morning message development about a month in advance. We explore the themes presented in the scriptures and deepen our faith and worship experience.

ALL are welcome to enhance your experience by joining our weekly Verso-Chat Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. Each week is it's own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words. 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>



Climate Postcards Update

The response from St. John's to the UCC's Climate Postcard Campaign was not what the Mission Committee had hoped for. Over 250 postcards were placed in the July newsletter, in the bulletin, and on the table in the lounge area. Only 33 postcards were returned which were mailed to the UCC's Washington DC Office:

100 Mayland Ave., NE, Suite 330, Washington, DC.

They will be added to the collection of postcards received from congregations all across the United States. In September the postcards will be delivered to the Environmental Protection Agency and our lawmakers in Washington. We sincerely thank the people who returned the postcards for their support of the work being done to address the Climate Change crisis.

Nut and Fruit Sale

Back by popular demand is our annual Nut & Fruit Sale. You can choose from the items listed below. Four new items have been added this year. There will also be a slight increase in some prices. For free samples of some of these items, see Carol Raszler.

Item	Description	Cost
Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves	Great for baking, toppings, and snacking	\$13.00/lb.
Deluxe Mixed Nuts	Pecans, cashews, pistachios, macadamias, almonds, Brazil nuts & hazelnuts, no peanuts; roasted & gently salted	\$12.50/lb.
Giant Whole Cashews	Roasted & gently salted	\$12.50/lb.
NEW! Fancy Colossal Pistachios	Lightly salted and bursting with flavor	\$12.50/lb.
Nut & Fruit Mix (formerly Healthy Mix)	Cashews and almonds, sweet dried cranberries, golden raisins, pumpkin seeds & sunflower seeds	\$12.00/lb.
Dark Chocolate Cranberries	Sweet, tangy, dried cranberries in rich, dark chocolate	\$12.00/lb.
Chocolate Bridge Mix	Cashews, almonds, Brazil nuts, peanuts, pecans, walnuts, hazelnuts, dried pineapple & raisins coated in milk chocolate	\$12.00/lb.
Harvest Medley Mix	Dried cherries & cranberries, roasted & salted pistachios, cashews & pecans	\$12.00/lb.
NEW! Malted Milk Balls	Giant malted milk balls drenched in milk chocolate	\$12.00/lb.
NEW! Milk Chocolate Raisins	Combination of jumbo raisins dipped in milk chocolate	\$12.00/lb.
NEW! Sweet & Salty Trail Mix	Blend of roasted salted peanuts, cashews, almonds, raisins & milk chocolate gems	\$12.00/lb.

Order forms are included with printed versions of this newsletter, [available on our website](#), and on the table in the lounge area.

Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC-Fullerton. You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place in the offering plate or give to Carol Raszler. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, September 17.

Delivery is anticipated by mid-November. Pick-up will be by a scheduled drive-by and/or after worship.

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

You will need these items for Christmas baking or gifts for the holidays!

Pastie Sale

It's time for our fall Pastie Sale. These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal.

We have three new additions this time. You can choose from the following:

Item	Description	Size	Cost
Traditional Beef Pastie	Ground beef, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.00
Beef (no onion) Pastie	Ground beef, potatoes	12 oz.	\$7.00
Traditional Chicken Pastie	Chicken, peas, carrots, potatoes, onions, gravy	12 oz.	\$7.00
Italian Sausage Pastie	Pork sausage, green peppers, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.00
Traditional Ham Pastie	Naturally-smoked ham, onions, cheddar cheese, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.00
NEW! Cheeseburger Pastie	Burger, American cheese, onions, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.00
NEW! Mexican Pastie	Beef, beans, cheddar cheese, onions, peppers, tomato, taco sauce	12 oz.	\$8.00
NEW! Pizza Pastie	Pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions, mozzarella cheese, pizza sauce	12 oz.	\$8.00
Veggie Melt Pastie	Peas, carrots, corn, green beans, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cheddar	12 oz.	\$7.00
Spinach Melt Pastie	Spinach, potatoes, onions, cheddar cheese	12 oz.	\$7.00
Fruit Turnover Pastie	Apple, cherry, or blueberry	6 oz.	\$4.00

Order forms are included with printed versions of this newsletter, [available on our website](#), and on the table in the lounge area.

Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place in the offering plate or give to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Wednesday, November 8, or Sunday, November 12. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, October 8.

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

A Night to Remember



We had outstanding weather on Tuesday, August 1, as 63 IronPigs baseball fans from St. John's came together at Coca Cola Park. Nancy Bowman was given the honor of throwing out the First Pitch, which was the perfect ending as Nancy was also celebrating her birthday that day. The score was 6 to 0 with the Buffalo Bisons leading in the 6th inning, much to the disappointment of the crowd. Then came the bottom of the 6th with the IronPigs at bat. They hit 3 home-runs with men on base. In an instant, the score became 9 to 6 with the IronPigs in the lead. The crowd went wild!! We held our breath as the Bisons loaded the bases in the top of the 9th. Much to everyone's relief and delight, the game ended with the IronPigs winning 10 to 7. A great time was had by all. Go Pigs!

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/photo-gallery/#NancyBowman>

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 **September 2 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



POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will have their first meeting of the new season on Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30pm in Fox Hall.

The theme will be Remembering 9/11 - Our Stories. Our guest speakers will be Ginny Brokenshire and Sue Weldner.

Come on out and hear their stories from that historic and horrific day in our countries history. It is important to remember and reflect not only the events that happened but also the heroism and spirit of kindness shown on that day and the days that followed.

Ladies of St. John's, you are welcome in this group of extraordinary women. Refreshments will be served and please use the elevator entrance. I hope to see you there!

Colleen Kulhamer

Pavilion Capital Campaign Fund Update

This is the third and final year of our Capital Campaign to help pay for our beautiful Pavilion. Back in 2021, when the Pavilion was just a dream, we began our Capital Campaign with 46 families pledging to donate \$42,455 (an average of \$922 per pledge).

As of the end of July, 35 families have fulfilled their pledge (with additional gifts of \$3396). Eleven families have not yet completed their pledge (although some are making regular payments) for a total shortage of \$5260.

Twenty-eight additional families made no pledge, but have donated a total of \$5220 towards the Pavilion fund.

The campaign is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. All gifts are welcome, whether they are big or small, to raise funds to pay for this wonderful Pavilion. Please use the bottom line of your weekly Church envelopes, the one labeled "Pavilion Loan" as often as you are able.

The Pavilion has been a great use for our Field of Dreams. Don't forget to again thank those who worked hard to make this dream come true.

Joining St. John's 5G Connection Class

Gathering Sunday, September 10

St. John's UCC, Fullerton continues to be a growing place! We received 4 person through our Confirmation Class in May, and receive 3 new adults in covenant relationship in July. You've seen the Confirmation Class pictures in our Grape St. Entrance bulletin board thanks to Amy Feidler and Janet Ebert, and photographer, Bill Castello. You will soon see pictures of Mike Borgman (his wife, Sharon, is already part of the St. John's family) as well as his parents, Rick and Roberta Borgman! Put names and new faces together as you enter for worship!

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!

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!



Roberta Borgman



Mike Borgman

"FUN-RAISING" EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

Saturday Sept. 9 – Community Yard Sale – 8am to 2pm at Pavilion & 6th St. parking lot. \$10.00 for your table; \$15.00 to rent St. John's table. Contact Brian Strauss.

Saturday Sept. 23 – Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ – Spend a day at the beach. Cost \$42.00. See Brian Strauss for reservations.

Thursday Sept. 28 – Give-Back Night at Panera – 4pm to 8pm at Panera Bread on MacArthur Rd. 40% give-back to St. John's on meals purchased. Contact Kenda Catalini.

Friday Oct. 13 – Halloween Gift Card Bingo – Doors open at 6pm, game begins at 7pm. Food available to purchase. \$20.00 for tickets in advance, \$25.00 at the door. Costumes optional. See Tom Moyer.

Sunday Oct. 15 – St. John's Road Rally – Starts at 1:30pm at Grape St. lot. Rally ends at a restaurant. Sign-up sheet at church. See Tom Moyer.

Wednesday Oct. 18 – Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" – 8am to 11pm Boscov's at Lehigh Valley Mall. 25% off lowest sales price with shopping pass. Cost for shopping pass \$5.00, proceeds go to St. John's. Contact Ginny Brokenshire or Carol Raszler.

Saturday Nov. 4 – Craft & Vendor Fair – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. \$25.00 per table to rent space. Food available. Contact Kenda Catalini.

Saturday Dec. 2 – Bus Trip to NYC – Tour the "Big Apple" on your own. Cost \$50.00. See Brian Strauss for reservations.

Pastie Sale – Assortment of 4 meat pies @ \$7.00 plus three brand new additions @ \$8.00 and three fruit pasties @ \$4.00. Deadline to order is Sunday, October 8. Pickup on Wednesday, November 8 from 6pm to 8pm or Sunday, November 12 after worship in Fox Hall. Contact Carol Raszler.

Nut & Fruit Sale – Assortment of 7 Nut & Fruit offerings plus 4 new additions. Prices range from \$12.00 to \$13.00 per pound. Deadline to order is Sunday, September 17. Drive-by pickup in mid-November. Contact Carol Raszler.

"Burgers for a Cause" – Applebee's \$10.00 coupon. Good at any Applebee's at any time. See Kenda Catalini to purchase a coupon.

Weis & Giant Gift Cards – Available in various denominations. 5% comes back to St. John's. Contact Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

Redner's Receipts – St. John's will get money back when you send your grocery receipts to the church. Basket is also on the table in the lounge. See Karen Stoitsits.

Contacts:

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	ginny@posleader.com
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	bill.castello@gmail.com
Kenda Catalini	(484) 358-7453	kpcatalini@aol.com
Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372	tommoyer54@gmail.com
Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572	craszler@aol.com
Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746	littledr@yahoo.com
Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119	strauss1975@aol.com

Friendship Bible Class News

It was a perfect day for a picnic!!—warm, sunny with a little breeze, and no humidity. The Friendship Bible Class came together on Saturday, July 22, for their annual Sunday School picnic. Thank you to Bill and Lori Fink for hosting the event at their campsite near Mertztown. Besides feasting on a lot of delicious food, making cotton candy, fishing, playing games, it was also a time for fun, conversation, and fellowship. The day ended with a gathering by the campfire. A good time was had by all.

You are cordially invited to attend this Adult Faith Formation Class (Sunday School) when the class resumes on Sunday, September 10th. The class meets every Sunday at 8:30am in Room 201. Different members teach each week and offer a variety of topics including Bible stories, scripture, parables, Bible characters, family traditions, current events, and much more. Stop in for a cup of coffee and refreshments and join in the discussion.



September Birthdays

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

9/1	Bill Castello Madeline Slivka	9/19	Andrew Deutsch Donald Foellner Robert Hoanzl Nathan Powell
9/3	Patricia Molinaro Jill Williams	9/20	Betty Millham Rowan Rarich Lord
9/4	Bonnie Strauss	9/22	Ruthann Hallman Emma Kuczek-Repp Robert Lopez
9/6	Kayleigh Fisher	9/23	Thomas Hunsicker Craig Schutts Patrick Yoder
9/7	Cathy Bachman Audra Sommer	9/25	Sharon Foellner Leona Snyder
9/8	Samantha Schutts	9/27	Margaret Baatz Roger Schneck
9/9	Gary Black William Fink Lora Nailor	9/28	Shirley Abel Susan Brinker Cynthia Sommers
9/11	Judith Rossanese	9/29	Tracy Fisher Michael Thomas Gutekunst
9/12	Evelyn Broad	9/30	Tara Bryant Linda Powell
9/13	Russell Chorney Robert Christman Jr Virginia Hess		
9/14	Roberta Haberern Jane Moyer Rebecca Loch		
9/17	William Focht		
9/18	Virginia Brokenshire Joyce Dumbach		



September Wedding Anniversaries

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

Jo Ellen & Barry Wexler 9/6/1986	Craig & Nicole Headman 9/22/2007
Dale & Betty Millham 9/10/1955	Amanda & Erik Volkert 9/23/2017
Barbara & Robert Menges 9/12/1964	Larry & Cindy Martin 9/24/1977
Paul & Carol Raszler 9/13/1969	Timothy & Lori Silfies 9/24/1983
Jamie & Heather Santee 9/14/2002	Jeffrey & Lora Nailor 9/26/1987
Frank & Phyllis Csaszar 9/16/2006	Mark & Denise Moll 9/26/1981
Barbara & Blaine Holden 9/16/1978	Andrew & Jamie Kulhamer 9/26/2014
William & LeAnn Focht 9/18/1993	Sharon & Mike Borgman 9/27/2003
Thomas & Kristine Gersbach 9/18/1982	Diane & James Walter 9/27/1980
Nathan & Danielle Powell 9/18/2010	Joyce & Kenneth Dumbach 9/29/1990





Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, starting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott Street in Allentown. Walkers are needed and church members can sponsor our walkers with your donations. Walkers who raise \$150 or more by October 22 earn a free T-shirt. There are two routes to choose from:



- 10K Route with refreshments available at the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank, Lehigh Conference of Churches (formerly Dubbs UCC), St. James UCC, and St. Timothy's.
- "Golden Mile" Route through the Hamilton Park neighborhood with refreshments available at St. Timothy's.

The CROP Hunger Walk helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. CROP Walk funds also support Church World Service's life-saving disaster assistance, displacement assistance, and long-term development assistance with our neighbors throughout the United States and around the globe.

If you would like to make a contribution (cash or check) to the CROP Walk and sponsor one of our walkers, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio before or after worship. Checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP with "CROP Hunger Walk Sponsor" in the memo section. You can also go online to crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa and look for St. John's UCC-Fullerton as a sponsor and make your donation.

The Mission Committee is coordinating this event with our Healthcare Ministry and its Walking Challenge event. The Walking Challenge will take place starting Sunday, September 24, and ending on Saturday, October 21.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of September, we are collecting canned tuna, canned vegetables, 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 or (610) 262-6114.

Local Disaster Ministries

Urgent Help Needed

Significant flooding occurred the weekend of July 15-16 in the Bangor and Marshall's Creek areas. Approximately fifteen properties need either debris clean up, removal of downed trees, or mud removal from basements & first floors. If anyone would like to assist the clean-up teams, please contact PNEC Disaster Coordinator Steve Hummel at (484) 239-5578 or revstevehummel@gmail.com so they can record your availability and provide it to the teams working in those areas. Let us truly show love of our neighbors by stepping up and helping out.

Hawaii Needs Our Help!



Due to severe drought conditions and fierce winds from a passing hurricane, the wildfires on Maui, and on Hawaii's Big Island, ignited and spread with alarming speed and ferocity on August 8. The infernos jumped over freeways, barreled through neighborhoods, and decimated homes, businesses, historical and cultural sites. The historic tourist town of Lahaina was virtually

obliterated. Hundreds of families have been displaced. Panicked residents were forced to jump into the ocean to flee the flames. Because of wind gusts, helicopters weren't able to dump water on the fires, and firefighters and citizens encountered roads blocked by downed trees and power lines. Thousands of people went to emergency shelters; people were requested to leave and get flights out of the area; hospitals were overwhelmed; cell phones were inoperable; and power was out in many parts of the island. It was reported that the historic 200-year-old Waiola Church, the first Christian church in Maui, was also destroyed. As this newsletter goes to press, over 111 people have perished and over 1000 people missing with the numbers expected to rise.

Because of this unexpected, devastating disaster, the Mission Committee has re-evaluated where the Disaster Relief Funds will go in August and September. We are accepting donations for Hawaii Disaster Relief and will be sent to the Hawaii Conference of the UCC. It will allow the Conference to respond quickly and efficiently to support emergency relief efforts as well as early recovery and/or long-term recovery work. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or by on-line and text giving. Be sure to designate Hawaii Disaster Relief in the memo section. Special offering envelopes are included in this newsletter and are also located 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, Sept 3	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave, Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, Sept 19	Whitehall Active Community Center (West Cathy Playground Building)	2301 Pine St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday, Oct 1	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-135
Tuesday, Oct 17	Redeemed Christian Church of God	5 N. Third St., Coplay	(610) 262-8993

Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Update

On Friday, August 4, the Mission Committee delivered 19 cartons of school supplies to the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Over 1700 items were donated. Some of items collected were 36 school bags, 11 calculators, 43 boxes of crayons, 134 glue sticks, 71 yellow highlighters, 46 sets of colored markers, 4020 sheets of notebook paper, 47 pencil pouches, 50 pencil sharpeners, 586 pencils, 40 sets of colored pencils, 250 pens, and 113 pocket folders. Thanks to your generosity, children will receive the supplies they need to start off the new school year in August.

How Did St. John’s Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	July 2023	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,110.00	\$7,535.00	\$9,642.00	\$10,502.70
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 902.00	\$3,017.00	\$ 865.00	\$1,705.00
Ukraine Relief Fund	\$ 120.00	\$1,430.00	\$3,060.00	N/A
General Disaster Relief	\$ 20.00	\$ 230.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for July 2023 totaled \$2,152.00 and YTD giving totaled \$14,464.00.



In Sunday School, a boy asks, “Miss Johnson, was Jonah really swallowed by a big fish?”

Miss Johnson replies, “That’s what the Bible says, but why do you ask?”

The boy grins, “Just wondering if Jonah was the first fisherman to exaggerate.”

After Sunday School, little Sarah approaches her teacher with a serious face. “Miss Taylor, today you said that God made Adam from dust, right?”

Miss Taylor nods, expecting a deep question, “Yes, Sarah, that’s right.”

Sarah, with concern in her eyes, asks, “So, every time I clean and sweep my room, am I stopping God from making a little brother for me?”

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends,

Thank you for choosing to donate \$485.00 in support of our response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. WCK has provided more than 300 million meals since 2010 in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crisis around the world. We are dedicated to being first on the frontlines with a fresh plate of food wherever we are needed. In our response to the crisis in Ukraine alone, we have partnered with more than 500 restaurants, food trucks, and caterers, along with countless community organizations, volunteers, and supporters like you. I share our heartfelt gratitude from the entire WCK family. Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.

Sincerely,
Erin Gore, CEO
World Central Kitchen

Dear Friend of Project HOPE,

You bring HOPE to children and families around the world through your support. Your recent lifesaving gift of \$210.00 for Ukraine Disaster Relief was received on July 19 and will be put to work immediately to help save more lives. We hope you know how thankful we are that you are helping bring comfort and healing to those who need it the most. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and support.

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

Applebee's Hamburger and Fries coupons are still being sold as a fundraiser for St John's. They are \$10.00 each. They do not expire, and can be used at any applebee's in the lehigh valley. I will be picking up the coupons shortly to distribute to everyone. Get your order in soon! Money is due at time of sign up. Please see Kenda.

(484) 358-7453 or email kpcatalini@aol.com



The
September 2023
edition of St. John's
CONNECTIONS
is sponsored
in loving memory of Uncle and Aunt,
Earl J. and Catherine M. Gorr
by niece Nancy Bowman



St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Jul 2023

Income	Electronic	7/2/2023	7/9/2023	7/16/2023	7/23/2023	7/30/2023	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,378.33	\$1,913.00	\$2,052.00	\$3,077.00	\$4,975.00	\$1,368.00	\$19,763.33
Rental Income--Gross				\$74.50	\$1,232.68		\$1,307.18
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$75.00	\$50.00	\$163.00			\$288.00
Endowment Interest			\$5,791.00				\$5,791.00
Flowers					\$50.00	\$25.00	\$75.00
Christian Education	\$10.00						\$10.00
Special Gifts							\$-
Total	\$6,388.33	\$1,988.00	\$7,893.00	\$3,314.50	\$6,257.68	\$1,393.00	\$27,234.51

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,542.88	\$11,751.00	\$(1,208.12)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$7,744.15	\$9,656.50	\$(1,912.35)
Property	\$2,747.19	\$2,318.00	\$429.19
Parish Programs	\$962.30	\$1,730.50	\$(768.20)
Total	\$21,996.52	\$25,456.00	\$(3,459.48)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$27,234.51	\$186,534.79
Total Expenses	\$21,996.52	\$163,832.52
Net	\$5,237.99	\$22,702.27

Mission Giving, Jul 2023

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,110.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$750.00
Ukraine Relief	\$120.00
Disaster Relief	\$20.00
Total	\$2,000.00

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

Account	Jun-23	Jul-23	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$46,385.19	\$52,870.74	\$6,485.55
Giant Card Funds	\$1,524.51	\$844.51	\$(680.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,820.00	\$1,820.00	\$-
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$49,729.70	\$55,535.25	\$5,805.55
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$87,217.54	\$87,827.30	\$609.76
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,867.31	\$31,867.57	\$0.26
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$119,084.85	\$119,694.87	\$610.02
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$445,298.12	\$470,295.95	\$24,997.83
TOTAL ASSETS	\$614,112.67	\$645,526.07	\$31,413.40
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(84,542.52)	\$(84,424.04)	\$118.48
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(84,542.52)	\$(84,424.04)	\$118.48
NET FUND BALANCE	\$529,570.15	\$561,102.03	\$31,531.88



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September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Book Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Labour Day - Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Km 201 6:30pm STARs Committee Mtg 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm Book Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00am Yard Sale - Pavilion 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Newsletter articles due 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Welcome Back Sunday 10:30am Confirmation Registration 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30pm Mission Committee - Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 10:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Km 201 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00pm Book Study</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Book Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm "Fun-Raising" Committee</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEPs</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Km 201 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am Bus trip to Ocean City, NJ 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Start walking challenge 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Orientation 11:15am Book Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Km 201 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00pm Panera Give-Back Night Madarthur 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Book Study - Parlor</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>