



**KIM  
HILLEGASS**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

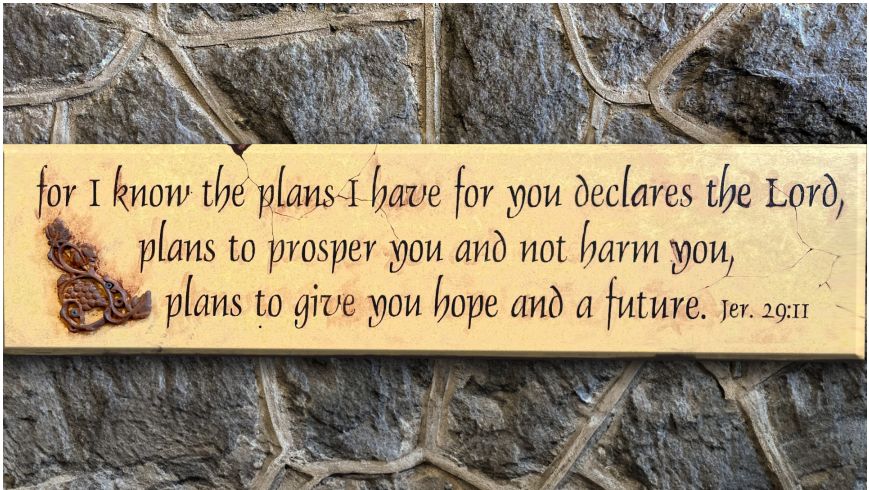
A monthly update from the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton

**Volume 16 • Issue 133 • October 2023**

## “Making Plans”

We’ve all heard the saying, “If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans.” And yet... I do believe that God has plans for us, dreams for our potential and possibility. In my office this pictured plaque has reminded me for many years of God’s intentionality to create within us a capacity and vitality that will not only change us, but our community as well. Many congregations have embraced having a long range or strategic plan. A few years ago, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith and a group of dedicated St. John’s leaders met to discern next steps, strategic plans for the years ahead.

“The Jeremiah Project” is based on the Divine promise to God’s people found in Jeremiah 29:11, in which God says:



*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”*

Like you, I am convinced God has plans for St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. God has plans for the Penn NE Conference and the United Church of Christ. God’s plans will prosper us and give us a future with hope. I’m also convinced this promise is to you and to your life personally. Yes, some of us may be getting along a little in age, but I am convinced, about me and about you, that God isn’t finished with us yet. If we’re still here, our ability to see lives changed is not complete.

“The Jeremiah Project” is designed to facilitate a congregation discerning God’s dreams for our lives and for our church, so we might cooperate with the work the Spirit is doing in the world and seeking to do

in our lives. Dozens of churches around the country who have used this approach to seek after the heart of God have found new life, direction, and purpose. I'm praying this will be true for St. John's UCC, Fullerton, as well. In the coming weeks, Bill Fink, our Consistory President, will be taking our existing strategic plan that was prepared to be implemented from 2020-2025, and visiting with those original leaders to see if they can help us re-imagine God's plans for us. We will be reminded of what the plan proposed, make the intentional effort as a Consistory to evaluate where we are as we begin 2024 and look forward. Where is God shifting the plans? Where is God confirming the strategies? Where have the needs changed? How do we see St. John's responding to our community today? Many opportunities to explore and look at God's plans for St. John's.

I'm also praying this will be true for the members of the congregation as individuals. That is the key after all. Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza recently wrote, "God cannot change our churches, our cities, or our world, except by changing us. It is narcissistic to insist we are the key to God's work and will in the world, but, clearly, we each have a role to play." I think we must pray because, only by asking for God's will to be done on earth, are we willing to be God's answer to that prayer.

We're taking steps forward, seeking the heart of God and the leading of God's Spirit, discerning how we can grow into the community of faith where others easily recognize that God is at work, creating a place where "Because of YOU, our Church Changes Lives!" That's our focus to the coming weeks and it will guide us with hope for our future into 2024!

May God create plans we embrace for "a future with hope" 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...



### **KIM HILLEGASS**

St John's UCC Fullerton – what can I say? I love my church and my church family! I have been coming to St John's for most of my life. I have found hope, support and love within this church's walls and love for God and Jesus and for all God's people. My faith grows stronger each day and it is here I feel at home.

I have been active in many committees and activities over the years. Currently, I am part of the prayer circle, Missions committee, Consistory and teaching and helping with the children's faith formation classes.

Outside of church, my favorite pastimes are gardening and taking walks with my 3 little pups.

## **Convalescent & Homebound Residents**

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Sally Gibson	Karen Moyer
Phyllis Ambearle	Ron Glass	Marilyn Piskula
Anita Beil	Roberta Habernern	Marietta Seyfried
Clarence Biehn	Lucille Hicks	Madeline Slivka
Jean Coombe	Geraldine Keim	Bert Smith
Sandra Diefenderfer	Adrienne Kiesbar	Nancy Weaver
Shirley Downing	Emma Repp Kuczek	Jolene Weaver
Jeanne Fischl	Jean Litzenberger	Bonnie Weikel
Milton Focht	Bill Mekes	
Paul "Gus" Geissinger Jr	Dale Millham	

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



## Music at St. John's

### The History of "O God, beyond all Praising"

Michael Perry (1942-1996) was born in Beckenham, Kent, England, where he served as Vicar of Tonbridge and a canon of Rochester Cathedral. One of England's most promising hymn writers, he worked as editor and director of Jubilate Hymns until an inoperable brain tumor led to his untimely death in December 1996.

Michael Baughen founded the Jubilate group in the early 1960s. According to Perry, the group pooled their talents to meet the challenge of a new generation in the United Kingdom, who wished to extend their singing beyond the foursquare ways of metrical hymnody and the "unpredictability of Anglican chant." With the newfound popularity of Perry's "Calypso Carol" and the support of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, Youth Praise 2 was published in 1969.

"O God, beyond all praising" was written specifically for the melody THAXTED in 1982, a composition by the early 20th-century British composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934). This tune is normally associated in the U.K. with a more patriotic text. Perry composed the text, he said, "in response to a call for alternative words that would be more appropriate for Christian worship."

Rarely is a symphonic theme taken en toto and used for a hymn tune. The ranges are usually too wide and the phrases may be too long for congregational singing. The melody THAXTED, named for a small town in the Uttlesford district of Essex, comes from the middle section of the "Jupiter" movement in Holst's orchestral suite, The Planets (1914-1916). In 1921, Holst adapted the theme to fit Cecil Spring-Rice's patriotic poem "I vow to thee my country" (1908).

Perry faced a formidable challenge in composing a text to such a stately theme, especially one that bears an association with a text that combines patriotic and religious fervor. To meet this challenge, he created a majestic hymn of praise that is biblically rooted.

For example, the final line of the second stanza, "our sacrifice of praise," come directly from Psalm 116:17 and Hebrews 13:15. In stanza one, the phrase, "wait upon your word," echoes Psalm 130:5.

Another phrase from stanza one, "for we can only wonder at every gift you send," resounds in the spirit of James 1:17.

Throughout the month of October, we will begin to use this beautiful hymn and I hope the words and melody are able to fill your hearts and minds the way it has mine!

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**

## **Staff Transitions and Welcomes**

### **Financial Secretary**

For 45 years, St. John's has enjoyed the faithful support of Tom and Emilie Moyer as our Financial Secretaries. This dynamic duo helped keep track of all the contributions to our ministry at the end of 2022, shared their intention to "retire" from the position. When no one came forward to fulfill this critical role, they continued to serve while Pastor Steve and the Personnel Committee sought new leadership.

After much prayerful consideration, Michelle Gutekunst has asked to change roles in leadership, stepping away from worship tech to become our next Financial Secretary. She will begin this new role October 1 with transition assistance from Tom and Emilie for the next couple of months.

Please share your expressions of gratitude to the Moyers and welcome Michelle to this new role in ministry at St. John's.

### **Worship Tech**

In the coming weeks, Bill Castello will be taking on the Worship Tech role, since he has already helped improve how our worship is experienced on site and online. The Personnel Committee is working to update the position description to include the expanded needs we have for technology assistance beyond Sunday morning worship. In recent years, the role has grown to include maintaining our digital sign information, managing our Facebook and Instagram pages and producing images to support our many activities for worship, social and fund raising.

Bill brings a long history of experience in graphic design and technology, and has been volunteering his time in the design and production of our monthly newsletter since January 2022. The Personnel Committee is working to ensure appropriate work relationship boundaries for supervision and support are in place. We welcome Bill to this more official role, where already he has given much time, provided training support and helped create an experience in worship that is a blessing, whether in the sanctuary or wherever one might be when participating.

If you'd like to help out on a Sunday with the visuals or the sound, or if you're a social media person and would like to help promote St. John's more, please stop by the Tech Desk and visit with Bill about how you can help. He's happy to help train anyone interested in helping support St. John's connections!



## Home Communion - Making Connections!



We all participate in making connections that share our love and gratitude for the relationship of faith in community we share. Our Elders and Consistory leadership and our Visitation Committee members and Pastor Steve have been 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 has been led by Pat Thompson. She is stepping down from this position of leadership, but still remaining part of the visiting team. We are grateful for her leadership and faithful support. We are ALWAYS glad to have people participate in this great ministry and we NEED YOU in making connections in our congregation. 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.

We NEED YOU in Congregational Caring and Support Ministry. 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.



# FALL SCHEDULE

## Worship Celebrations In October

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 October and the beginning of November our worship services will invite us to see the many ways in which God is growing us and our ministry at St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

**"Because of YOU, our church changes lives!"**

Each week we will share the many ways we experience transformation and by which our lives are changed and we are changing lives in our community.

The water we collected from so many places around the world will be part of our experience as well. Small bowls of water will be at our pedestal stands and in the center of the chancel for you to dip your finger and mark yourself in the waters of renewal. This ancient reminder of our baptism and the welcome we receive to covenant relationship in Christ creates the foundation for who we are as the loved people of God.

Holy Communion will be part of our weekly expression of receiving God's gifts of love and grace so we can be Christ's presence in our homes, our community and around the world. Grounded in our covenant of baptism, we receive with joy the gifts of Christ's love in Holy Communion. We welcome you, each week, to experience how you connect to the work of God at St. John's.

### **World Communion Sunday**

October 1 - Micah 6:1-8 & Mark 4:1-9, 13-20

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"  
- With What Shall I Come Before the Lord?**

We gather to celebrate our faith in Holy Communion with people from all over the world on this day of unity and hope we find as the Body of Christ alive in the world today. We will hear the words of God to the people through the prophet, Micah, and remember our call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." The Gospel lesson invites us to resist fear with trust in God's abundant provision through Jesus' parable of the sower.

October 8 - Matthew 25:1-13

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"  
- Involved Waiting**

The Gospel lesson tells the parable of the Bridesmaids and how they prepared for the Bridegroom to arrive and the wedding celebration to begin. We will focus on the preparations we are making to be ready as we see and hear the call of Christ to a new relationship.

October 15 - Matthew 25:14-30

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"  
- Faithfully or Fearfully Generous**

The familiar parable of the talents will guide us to explore how we experience God and respond to God's generous love toward us. The story shares much more than a commitment to faithful management of resources entrusted to our care. We find the opportunity to experience how God's abundant love transforms our lives and the lives of others as we use what's placed in us.

October 22 - Matthew 25:31-46

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"  
- A Generous Spirit to the Most Vulnerable**

Looking at the vast needs around the world and in our own community and personal lives, we can easily focus on our own circumstances. Rather than include our compassion for the most vulnerable, our own interests can take priority over our commitment to the needs of others as well. God's grace is not "either/or." We worship and serve a "both/and" God of love! The parable of the sheep and goats gives a fresh look at our connection to and care for those most vulnerable and marginalized in our congregation, community and world.

October 29 - Rev. Cliff Herring leading worship and preaching

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"**

St. John's is blessed with "retired" clergy who are active in ministry that continues to bless us. Cliff is well loved as a pastor in the Penn NE Conference and as a member of St. John's. We are fortunate to have him come and share his reflections on our theme.

We will also welcome on the staff ministers from the Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches to share exciting news of an upcoming event in November.

Pastor Steve will attend the 100th Anniversary of McMurry University, his alma mater, and sing with a combined choir of over 100 voices from 5 different returning directors. There will also be a few personal days to travel with his mom to see his Aunt Kathy whose health and progressed dementia has significantly impacted her quality of life. He appreciates your prayers during these travels for joy and concern.

**All Saints Day Remembrance**

November 5 - 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 & Matthew 5:1-12

**"Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives"**

With great joy we remember the blessed saints of St. John's who have passed from our presence in the last year. We celebrate their lives of faith and their commitments to being the people of God. Once

again, we will invited family members to be present, share in lighting candles, and name these beloved friends in faith.

### Stewardship Sunday

November 12 - Joshua 24:14-25

### “Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives”

Like those Joshua led, we choose to serve the Lord with all we are and all we have. As we come for communion to receive God’s gifts, we also bring our commitments to serve God through St. John’s with our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Our church changes lives because we choose to give ourselves to God and each other as we worship, love and serve.

### Sunday Morning Social Time “Hosts” This Fall

Our Sunday Socials at Fox Hall have been quite the hit recently, and guess what? We’re on the lookout for generous souls willing to host these gatherings. As a host, you’ll be bringing the snacks that fuel our fun conversations and deepen our connections after the morning worship.



Meeting new friends, enjoying shared moments, and strengthening our bonds—all while being the star of the day. Sound like something you’d be up for?

If you’re interested in hosting, please write your name on the red display board in the Parlor. If you’re wondering about the specifics or need tips, Colleen Kulhammer or Kenda Catalini are your go-to guides. They’ll walk you through everything.

And a quick note: Sunday Socials are about offering some delightful nibbles, not orchestrating a full meal. It’s a time for casual snacks and conversations. We appreciate the gesture of hosting and want to ensure it’s a manageable and pleasant experience for everyone. We can’t wait to see who’s up for the delightful task of hosting!

# FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

## Friendship Sunday School Class

### Adult Faith Formation

Sundays at 8:30am, Room 201

The Friendship Class meets prior to worship sharing a variety of topics and lessons from scripture to strengthen our walk in faith and our relationships with each other. Visit with Tom Moyer (class facilitator) and come be part of this great group as we grow in faith.

## 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 enjoy their new faith formation activities 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. Creative experiences of faith formation are shared, "Building Faith Brick by Brick" as a new part of our lessons!

## Confirmation / Other Youth

### Youth Faith Formation (6th, 7th & 8th Graders / All Other Youth)

Sundays at 11:00am following Sunday Social time, in 3rd floor Youth Room

*Orientation for Confirmands and Parents is September 24  
Welcome Session for Confirmands and Other Youth on October 1*

We are trying something new this year, with the goal of welcoming our youth to continue to share their growing faith journey with each other.

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 have a Confirmation Class, meeting on Sunday morning from 11:00 to 12:30, beginning October 1, 2023. Parents

may register their young person by calling the church office or sending an email to share your intention. Registration will also be available online. An orientation meeting will be held at 11:00am September 24 for the student and at least one parent, when we go over the program and expectations.

We are preparing a class schedule and requirements for the year, with the Confirmation process remaining as a 1-program/year class, rather than for 2 years as had been done previously. Our 6th grade youth are welcome to participate without the same requirements of the Confirmands in either 7th or 8th grade. If they choose to fully participate in the requirements, then 6th grade youth are welcomed to be confirmed. If not, the class will be a new step in their faith journey to explore and affirm their faith.

Youth in 7th or 8th grade make up the “traditional” confirmation class age. If you have not yet gone through a confirmation class and would like to grow in your walk of faith, learning more about our faith history and what we believe as followers of Jesus in the United Church of Christ, you are welcome to be part of this faith formation activity. Others 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 [srpastor@sjuccf.org](mailto:srpastor@sjuccf.org)

We welcome you to explore and develop your faith, the history of St. John’s UCC, Fullerton and the journey we share together in God’s love!

## **Deadline for November Newsletter**

If you would like to contribute an article for the November newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, October 8.

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

Authors, some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

## Other Faith Formation Events

Throughout the year, you can join in the weekly Verso-Chat Lectionary Study group, meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9am, onsite or by Zoom, or other 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.

Faith Formation isn't limited to Sunday mornings. Throughout the week, we're diving into understanding God, deepening our faith, and connecting with our community. Got questions? You're not alone! Interested in a book study or diving into a topic discussion? Reach out to Pastor Steve; he's eager to hear your thoughts. And, remember, activities like Transformational Conversations aren't just Sunday affairs. Whether it's an afternoon, evening, or another weekday, there's always an opportunity to come together. Join us during our Sunday Social for some enlightening chats and grow in faith with us. Hope to see you soon!







## Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering

BES volunteers and staff advocate for our Street Neighbors and support the work of BES in our community.

BES seeks volunteers to help with various projects over the year to support the Shelter Season, Weekend Lunches, and other programs. This could entail helping clean out storage, painting a room or sorting through linen to prepare for the next shelter season.

BES also seeks volunteers to help with various events and functions for fundraising and general outreach of BES services. This could entail setting up a booth, handing out beverages, or just sharing your experiences of BES with others.

Opening date of next shelter season will be November 15th, 2023 with an extension to April 30th, 2024. We have already been hard at work ripping up carpets, painting floors, and finding new ways to make the space feel welcoming for our future Shelter Guests.

We still have more work and could use your help. This is a great opportunity for volunteers 14 years and up to volunteer with their Legal Guardian.

To learn more, visit: <https://bes.galaxydigital.com/>



**Q. What can I expect in an ONA church?**

**A. A community of faith where you and your family are safe!**

Because each congregation in the United Church of Christ is independent, and therefore free to make its own decisions, there is a broad diversity of theology and practice in our tradition. In the UCC, there is no hierarchy that can impose uniformity on our churches. Each ONA congregation has independently adopted an Open and Affirming covenant after a journey of dialogue, study and prayer.

There are differences between congregations, but generally, an ONA church:

- is a safe space for open and honest conversation about human sexuality and gender identity.*

- encourages LGBTQ members to serve in lay and ordained leadership.*

- celebrates same-sex weddings.*

- celebrates the anniversaries of LGBTQ married and partnered couples and offers rites to honor gender transitions.*

- advocates for LGBTQ civil rights, and defends their LGBTQ neighbors when their dignity or safety are threatened.*

- is willing to host meetings of support groups like PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).*

- advertises that it is a safe space for LGBTQ and questioning youth.*

- participates as a group in the local LGBTQ Pride Parade.*

- celebrates ONA Sunday once a year and annually renews its ONA covenant.*

## Community Yard Sale at the Pavilion

What a great day at the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 9! Fun conversations, great community guests coming through, lots of goodies at the bake sale, and an opportunity for our vendors to sell their wares. Habitat for Humanity's "Stuff the Truck" came at the end of the day to take items that didn't sell for its Habitat ReStores in order to sell the merchandise to the public. Thank you to chairperson Brian Strauss and the "Fun-Raising" Committee Team for organizing the event.

To see more pictures from the Community Yard Sale and other recent events, visit: <https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/photo-gallery>



## Annual Craft Vendor Show Reminder

The date is November 4th, 9am to 2pm. A great variety of crafters and vendors are already signed up. We still have spots available if interested. Please contact Kenda Catalini (484) 358 7453 or [kpcatalini@aol.com](mailto:kpcatalini@aol.com)

## Scrip Gift Card Sales

It's that time of year again! You know the holidays are just around the corner when we start getting ready for our annual Scrip gift card sale. What better way to shop for those on your gift list than with a Scrip gift card? It makes finishing your shopping easy and the gift cards cost so much less to send!

Scrip is a national program to help non-profit groups and schools earn money. Scrip allows families to purchase prepaid merchandise gift cards for local and national businesses through the Great Lakes Scrip company. These gift cards are just like cash.

If you are interested in making a purchase, please fill out the order form, complete with your check made payable to St. John's UCC Fullerton and mail to:

**St. John's UCC, 575 Grape St, Whitehall, PA 18052**

**Attention: Tracey Glass**

The form to place an order is included with the printed version of this newsletter and online here: <https://bit.ly/45YobVm>

Order form and payment must be received by 11/19/23. Gift cards will be available for pick-up on or after 12/10/23. If you have any questions, call the church office (610) 264-8421 or Tracey (610) 905-8426.

Order forms may also be placed in her mailbox in the church office or placed in the offering plate. Happy shopping!!

.....  
: **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](mailto:kpcatalini@aol.com) :  
: .....



## Gift Card Bingo - Friday, October 13, 2023

Tickets are now available for this fun event! Cost is \$20, or \$25 at the door, if any remain. Come and enjoy the evening, and perhaps win some gift cards. Tickets are on sale in the church office, or on Sundays from a member of the "Fun-raising" committee. Friday the 13th may be your lucky day!

Halloween is coming. You are encouraged but not required to come in costume!

We will appreciate donations of any of the following items:



- Cans of Coca Cola products (12 ounce), regular, diet, caffeine free regular, caffeine free diet, Sprite, or any other flavors..
- Bottled water, larger size
- Packs of small snack bags
- Baked goods. Must be individually wrapped.
- Hot dog rolls ( We have the hot dogs.)
- Hamburger rolls
- Any other food item that could be sold.

We need items and/or gift cards for our Tricky Tray table. These things should have a value of \$20-\$30. You can sponsor a game with a \$50 donation that will pay for the gift card for one of the 20 games that evening.

Feel free to volunteer your services that evening. You will have a blast! Share the poster for the event with friends and on social media, available here: <https://bit.ly/3LuRt5L>

If you are able to help us with any of the things listed, please tell Tom Moyer, or any other member if the "Fun-raising" committee.

# Trunk Or Treat

On Friday, October 27th, join us at the Pavilion between 6pm-8pm for a fun and spooky evening of Trunk or Treat. Dress up if you like and decorate your car to hand out candy and goodies to all the neighborhood ghosts and goblins!

This year we will also be setting up the Pavilion as the Bedrock Cafe to sell \$5 Dino Meals or Brontosaurus Chili Meals to raise more money for our Furnace Fund.

The Dino meal will include a hotdog, chips, cookie and water bottle and the Brontosaurus meal will include a bowl of chili, crackers, cookie and water bottle which can be eaten in the Pavilion or taken to go. The servers will be Fred and Wilma Flintstone and Barney and Betty Rubble! This will be an evening of fun, fellowship and food!

Last year, we had well over 200 children come through the parking lot! If you can participate, please see Colleen or email me at [clkulhamer@aol.com](mailto:clkulhamer@aol.com).

**Thanks and stay spooky!**



## Our Crafters Invite You...



St. John's Crafters will be in Fox Hall for the annual Crafters and Vendors Fair on Saturday, November 4, from 9am to 2pm. We have lots of handmade household decorations, kitchen items, baby items, 12-bean soup mix, and cookbooks. Check out our newest items: pillowcases, fabric baskets, tissue box covers, patchwork table runners, fabric shopping bags, and bowl cozies. Get a jump start on your Christmas shopping!

## Update on Redner's Tapes

Thank you to everyone who brings in their grocery receipts from Redner's. St. John's receives 1% back on all receipts submitted.

Redner's does have some guidelines we need to follow. The whole receipt must be submitted, and it must say "Save-A-Tape on it. If you use a charge card and do not want any numbers to show on the receipt, you can black them out. In addition, please check at customer service to make sure you are using a current customer card as some of the cards have been updated. If you are not a member of Redner's Save-A-Tape program, please join—then make sure you use your customer card as you check out.

We'd like to thank Sally Gibson for her many years of service in compiling all the receipts and submitting them to Redner's. That duty has now been taken over by Karen Stoitsits. If you have any questions, Karen can be reached by phone (610) 262-0746 or email [littlekdr@yahoo.com](mailto:littlekdr@yahoo.com) You can mail your receipts into the church office or deposit them in a jar found on the table in the lounge area.





## 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
<b>NEW!</b> Cheeseburger Pastie	Burger, American cheese, onions, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.00
<b>NEW!</b> Mexican Pastie	Beef, beans, cheddar cheese, onions, peppers, tomato, taco sauce	12 oz.	\$8.00
<b>NEW!</b> 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	Choose from apple, cherry, or blueberry	6 oz.	\$4.00

Order forms are available on the church's website or 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 it in the offering plate or give it 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, contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)

## Nut & Fruit Sale

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for the Nut and Fruit Sale. The anticipated time of arrival should be by mid-November. We will be in touch with you when the products arrive to arrange a drive-by pickup or pickup after worship. For those of you who missed out on this opportunity, we may have a few extra items to sell from the assortment of nuts, fruit, and chocolate items. Costs vary from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for 1 lb. bags. For information, contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



## Homemade Chocolate Candy



St. John's Chocolatier, Ginny Brokenshire, will be offering homemade chocolate candy again this year for the Christmas holidays. You can choose from semi-sweet peanut butter eggs or semi-sweet coconut cream eggs or a combination of both. The cost is \$14.00 a pound. An order form can be found in this newsletter, on the church's website, and on the table in the lounge area. Order forms can either be given to Ginny, mailed to her at:

**5368 Vera Cruz Rd., Center Valley, PA 18034**

or placed in the offering plate. Checks are made payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. The deadline for orders is Sunday, November 26. Pick-up will be on Sunday, December 17. If you have any questions, contact Ginny at home (610) 439-0443 or her cell (720) 909-5848.

Order forms may also be accessed from the church website here: <https://bit.ly/45Na1X3>

## Walking Challenge Begins

The 2023 Fall Walking Challenge is ready to begin September 24 and end October 21. All you need to do is count your steps (pedometer or even a cell phone can do it). Report the total for the week to me by Saturday evening or Sunday morning. You can email: [sharonantrim@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonantrim@yahoo.com) or call/text me: (610) 216-6207. I'm very excited that the interest is huge. I'm sure we'll pass the five million mark again. It's all for fun and the health benefits are wonderful. You still have time to join. Just contact me to add you to the list.

**Sharon Antrim**  
Healthcare Ministry

## Worship Leadership from the Back Corner

St. John's STARs team (St. John's Technical and Artistic Resources) helps facilitate our experience of worship each week, and make it possible for people to participate online and enjoy our worship wherever they may be. We are grateful for the leadership which Michelle Gutekunst has brought to this developing position over the years. With other staff changes and our experience of COVID, the position has grown and expanded to include much more than Sunday morning leadership. She will be shifting to a new role on Staff.



We have been fortunate to have other great support with Jesus Pagan, Bill Castello and Elijah Fox at the Tech Desk. Our hope is to grow our team. We would like to train people to help with different aspects of our worship, so that not only one person is responsible for everything on a Sunday morning. Please stop by the Tech Desk and let us know if you're interested in helping out in one of the assisting roles we have open each week. Training is provided and you're welcome to try out the opportunity.

## 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 **October 7 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us.

If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email [QVRRBold@aol.com](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com)

## Better Than Uber! A Transportation Connection

Part of the “Strategic Plan” that was developed prior to Covid, not yet implemented, was to provide connections for people 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!





## 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. Our regular gifts to support the ministry we share calls for MORE of us to become an "Automatic Contributor." Our ministry each week depends on our regular participation, involvement and giving. 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.

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

It's fun to look at Scripture and share our questions and insights with each other! Most weeks, we explore the lectionary readings which Pastor Steve often uses to shape the Sunday morning message development about a month in advance. Some weeks, other scriptures are used to guide us. We explore the themes presented in the scriptures and deepen our faith and worship experience.

Share your interest in participating by contacting Pastor Steve or the Church Office emails to be on the list to receive the weekly email of scriptures we will explore together. 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>



## News from Lehigh Conference of Churches

Lehigh Conference of Churches is pleased to announce the opening of their second location in Easton. For over 70 years, LCC has been dedicated to providing help, hope, and compassionate care to the most vulnerable members of our community. The decision to prioritize services in Easton was driven by the increasing homelessness crisis in the Lehigh Valley. LCC possesses a unique ability to reach out to those living without shelter, cultivate trusting relationships, and connect individuals and households with the resources that can empower them to regain their independence and begin the journey to recovery.

Historically, the Conference has primarily operated in the Allentown area, with its location at the former Dubbs Memorial UCC located at Fifth and Allen Streets. Venturing into a new city means introducing LCC to a fresh audience within a close-knit community. It also entails strengthening LCC's existing partnerships while establishing new ones and contributes significantly to the betterment of the City of Easton.

The Easton office is located at 40 N. Union St. (within Easton Housing Authority's 32 building) with hours Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm.



# Lady PEEPS

POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30pm.

The theme will be "THIS IS MY STORY - THIS IS MY SONG" and our guest speaker will be St. John's music director, Patrick Sandt. Come and hear his musical story of how he was called to use his amazing talent for God's work and his journey to St. John's!

We will meet in the sanctuary where Patrick will bless us with some of his music on the grand piano before telling his story. Refreshments will then be served in Fox Hall. Ladies, join us for a special evening and please use the elevator entrance.

Colleen Kulhamer



## Top 7 Commandments that WEREN'T

7. Thou shalt not listen to country music
6. Thou shalt obey the speed limit at all times.
5. Thou shalt not have a communion service on Super Bowl Sunday.
4. Dabble not in the lottery but supporteth church bingo.
3. Seeketh not what the mall has to offer.
2. Let not your prayers exceedeth the length of the "Hallelujah Chorus" during church-related functions.
1. Thou shalt useth onlyeth the Kingeth Jameseth Bibleth.



## Joining St. John's 5G Connection Class

November 12

St. John's UCC, Fullerton continues to be a growing place! God's love is felt here and our warm welcome invites people to become part of our covenant community. We are excited to offer another opportunity on November 12 for people interested in becoming part of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton community of faith. 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!

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 is our place to worship, love and serve ~ no matter what, through a great 5G Connection!



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

- 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, games begin 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.
- Nut & Fruit Sale** – Orders should be arriving by mid-November. See Carol Raszler.
- Pastie Sale** – Assortment of 4 meat pies at \$7.00 plus three brand new additions at \$8.00 and three fruit pasties at \$4.00. Deadline to order is Sunday, October 8. Pickup either Wednesday, November 8 from 6pm to 8pm or Sunday, November 12 after worship in Fox Hall. Contact Carol Raszler.
- Homemade Chocolate Candy** – Semi-sweet peanut butter and coconut cream eggs. \$14.00/lb. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 26. Pickup scheduled for December 17. Contact Ginny Brokenshire.
- "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** –5% comes back to the church with your purchase of grocery gift cards. See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler
- Redner's Receipts** –1% comes back to the church when you send your entire grocery receipt to the church. Collection 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	littleldr@yahoo.com
Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119	strauss1975@aol.com

## Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Event

A big shopping day could be yours at Boscov's. It's for Wednesday, October 18, from 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's, and the church gets to keep the funds. This pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price—in store only—and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions. Present the pass at check-out and receive your discount. To get your pass, see Ginny Brokenshire before or after worship or give her a call at home (610) 439-0443 or via cell (720) 909-5848.

## 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!

**Panera**  
FUNDRAISING

*Help support us!*

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
FULLERTON**

**September 28, 2023  
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT  
2669 MacArthur Rd**

**40%  
OF SALES  
WILL BE  
DONATED**

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-caffe.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\* Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

\*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by cafe.

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## October Birthdays

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

<p>10/2 ..... Joy Gravely Kirby Hower Riley Kulhamer Linda Smith Linda Powell</p> <p>10/3 ..... Eireann Hunsicker Patricia Schaffer</p> <p>10/4 ..... Michael Buskirk</p> <p>10/5 ..... Bailey Kulhamer Sharon Romberger Matthew Stoitsits</p> <p>10/6 ..... Joan Phillips</p> <p>10/7 ..... Gary George Mark Geroulo Sr Ted Hess Charles Schwenk</p> <p>10/8 ..... Freda Albright James Leibensperger Gary D Neitz Janice Walenta</p> <p>10/9 ..... Randy Bachman Gary Hallman Ann Patterson</p> <p>10/10 ..... Mike Borgman Robert Young</p> <p>10/11 ..... Kendal Clewell Corynn Troxell</p> <p>10/13 ..... Abby Chryst Hoffman</p> <p>10/15 ..... Katelyn Orlowsky Barbara Seeds</p>	<p>10/17 ..... Rev Evelyn Stupp Andria Dallago Amy Feidler</p> <p>10/18 ..... Barbara Seyfried</p> <p>10/19 ..... Jo Ann Sutter</p> <p>10/20 ..... Dee Schlenker</p> <p>10/21 ..... Jean Coombe Nicole Fox</p> <p>10/23 ..... Isabella Pagan</p> <p>10/24 ..... Robert Dougherty Wilbur Kline</p> <p>10/25 ..... Michael Baatz David Brown Brinlee Neitz</p> <p>10/27 ..... Donna Herring Marlene Kocher</p> <p>10/28 ..... Kristine Gersbach Barbara Menges Janet Miller Randy Schlenker</p> <p>10/29 ..... Zane Saeger</p> <p>10/30 ..... Melanie Beck Nancy Keister Carol Olson Jacob Powell Stacy Sommer Gary Weaver</p> <p>10/31 ..... Arbula Dotter</p>
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## October Wedding Anniversaries

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

Kevin & Melody Fox 10/1/1977	Jeffrey & Barbara Seeds 10/14/1972
Margaret & Robert Young 10/2/1993	Brian & Tracy Fisher 10/16/1999
Kimberly & Robert Saeger 10/8/2004	Elwood & Patricia Thompson 10/18/1975
Ronald & Ann Patterson 10/9/1970	William & Kathy Roth Sr. 10/20/1973
Kevin & Kaitlyn Weidner 10/10/2020	Ellen & James Sagazio 10/20/2007
Kirby & Lorraine Hower 10/10/2009	MaryBeth & Michael McNicholas 10/26/2002
Robert & Helene Scheirer 10/10/1981	Michael & Joy Gravely 10/27/1973
James & Andrea Leibensperger 10/10/1998	Susan & Keith Kaider 10/30/1965
Christopher & Jennifer Kuhns 10/14/2000	





## Neighbors in Need

**“God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good.”**

~ Genesis 1:31

This year’s Neighbors in Need theme is “Behold.” Its focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, and buried in landfills. As people of faith, we must be better stewards of our planet!

Two-thirds of the offerings are used by UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as its support for a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third supports the Council of American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

Enclosed with this newsletter is a special offering envelope and insert. The NIN offering will be received during worship on Sunday, October 1, and continue to the end of October.



## General Disaster Relief Fund

### World Central Kitchen

About 65% of Ukraine's land is covered in black soil, the most fertile soil found on earth. Because of this, more than half of Ukraine's households grew their own home gardens before Russia's full-scale invasion began. In the months since, this rich soil sat fallow as backyard farmers throughout the country have been unable to continue growing their own food. They faced a myriad of challenges including constant threat of attack, damaged infrastructure, a disrupted financial system, and lack of access to seeds. As of June, World Central Kitchen has provided more than 165,000 seed kits to the people of Ukraine. The kits included a variety of vegetables



and herbs. Now, WCK teams throughout the country are met with excitement and pride. "Whenever we go to someone's house, every single time, they show us their garden," said one of WCK's Ukraine Relief Team leaders. The summer harvest season produced vegetables

destined to be ingredients used to prepare nourishing meals. Jose Andres, founder of WCK said, "There are many ways you can feed a community. You can feed the community with seeds, too."

**Contributions received in October will go to World Central Kitchen.** WCK not only responds to the needs in Ukraine but also responds to those devastated by the wildfires in Maui, the recent earthquake in Morocco, and other disaster areas around the globe. Donations can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or by on-line and text giving. Be sure to designate "WCK" in the memo section. You can find General Disaster Relief envelopes on the table in the lounge area.



## **Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk**

CROP Hunger Walks are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger locally and around the world. This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, starting at 1:30pm 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. There are two routes to choose from:

**1. 10K Route with refreshments available at the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank, Lehigh Conference of Churches (formerly Dubbs Memorial UCC), St. James UCC, and St. Timothy's.**

**2. "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, including victims of the humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, and Morocco.

If you would like to make a contribution to the CROP Walk and sponsor one of our walkers, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio before or after worship. Checks need to be made payable to CWS/CROP with "CROP Hunger Walk" in the memo section. Donations can also be sent in to the church office or go online to make your donation: [crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa](http://crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa) and search St. John's UCC-Fullerton as sponsor.

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



## Whitehall Food Pantry

Donations are now needed for the Thanksgiving meal. For the month of October, the food pantry is asking for donations of canned turkey gravy, canned cranberry sauce, and canned vegetables. 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, placed in the offering plate, or by on-line or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black by email [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) or 484-274-2405.

## Hawaii Disaster Relief

Thank you for your donations to lend support for the devastating wildfires in Maui and Hawaii's Big Island.

For the month of August, we received \$525. We will continue to accept donations for Hawaii Disaster Relief until the end of September at which time all funds will be sent to the Hawaii Conference of the UCC. More than 2,200 buildings were significantly damaged and destroyed, 86% of them residential homes. The historic Waiola Church, a UCC congregation, was among the buildings destroyed. More than 2,170 acres have burned. It will cost an estimated \$6 billion to rebuild Lahaina and other areas of Maui. Your donation will allow the Conference to respond quickly and efficiently to support immediate emergency relief efforts such as gas, clothes, food, and shelter as well as long-term recovery aid and assistance. 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 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 first Sunday and third Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6:30pm – Dine-in Only. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, Oct 1	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Tuesday, Oct 17	Redeemed Christian Church of God	5 N. Third St., Coplay	(610) 262-8993
Sunday, Nov 5	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Tuesday, Nov 21	First Presbyterian of Hokendauqua	3005 S Front St., Whitehall	(610) 264-9693

## Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies

Over 1700 items were donated to the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Some of the items collected were 36 backpacks, 11 calculators, 43 boxes of crayons, 134 glue sticks, 4020 sheets of notebook paper, 586 pencils, 250 pens, and 113 pocket folders.



Thanks to your generosity, children will receive the supplies they need to start off the school year. Please read in this newsletter the thank you letter we received from WCSD's Superintendent.

## "Operation Santa" Coming Soon . . .

Look for more information in the November newsletter regarding our Mitten Tree project. The Mission Committee will give you details on how to make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate as we begin our "Operation Santa" outreach for Phoebe Ministries and Valley Youth House.

## How Did St. John's Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	Aug 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
Hawaii Disaster Relief	\$ 525.00	\$525.00	N/A	N/A
CROP Walk	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	--	--

**Mission Outreach giving for August 2023 totaled \$2,110.00 and YTD giving totaled \$16,422.00.**

### Thank You Notes

A big thank you to the community of St. John's and Colleen Kulhamer for making my 40th Birthday a memorable day filled with laughter, love, and memories that I will always cherish and be grateful for!

Thank you for giving me the honor and joy this past year of serving St. John's as your Director of Music!

Patrick

"A sincere thank you to Pastor Steve and everyone at St. John's for such a warm and gracious send off for my retirement. I felt so loved by all of you—my church family. Pretty sure I know where I'll come to worship when we're back in the Lehigh Valley in the summers."

Love,  
Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope  
Phoebe Ministries

(Note: A reception was held for Scott after worship on August 20. Scott retired on September 1 after 12 years of service as Director of Pastoral Care at Phoebe, 5 five years on the Board of Directors at Lehigh Conference of Churches, and 36 years of ordained ministry Scott and his wife, Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope, have moved to Florida.)

I wanted to extend the district's sincere appreciation for your generosity in donating and delivering school supplies for students at the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the kindness that you have extended towards our school family. Your donation will allow us to provide students in need with supplies necessary to enhance their education during this new school year. We are grateful that our schools are located in such a caring community!

Sincerely,  
Robert J. Steckel, Superintendent  
Whitehall-Coplay School District

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

<b>Income</b>	Electronic	8/6/2023	8/13/2023	8/20/2023	8/27/2023	<b>Total</b>
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,535.03	\$2,828.00	\$2,603.00	\$3,032.47	\$1,757.00	\$16,755.50
Rental Income--Gross			\$44.50	\$400.00	\$1,225.50	\$1,670.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$50.00	\$10.00		\$1,406.00	\$1,466.00
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers				\$50.00	\$7.95	\$57.95
Christian Education	\$10.00					\$10.00
Special Gifts					\$350.00	\$350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,545.03</b>	<b>\$2,878.00</b>	<b>\$2,657.50</b>	<b>\$3,482.47</b>	<b>\$4,746.45</b>	<b>\$- \$20,309.45</b>

<b>Expense Summary</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Pastoral Services	\$10,542.88	\$11,751.00	\$(1,208.12)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$7,907.78	\$9,656.50	\$(1,748.72)
Property	\$6,995.76	\$4,543.00	\$2,452.76
Parish Programs	\$6,462.74	\$1,755.50	\$4,707.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,909.16</b>	<b>\$27,706.00</b>	<b>\$4,203.16</b>

	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
Total Income	\$20,309.45	\$206,844.24
Total Expenses	\$31,909.16	\$195,741.68
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$(11,599.71)</b>	<b>\$11,102.56</b>

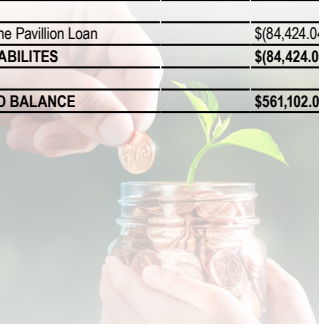
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**Mission Giving, Aug 2023**

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$975.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$390.00
UCC Hawaii	\$545.00
Ukraine Relief	\$60.00
Crop Walk	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,120.00</b>

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

<b>Account</b>	<b>Jul-23</b>	<b>Aug-23</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Checking Account--KNBT	\$52,870.74	\$41,941.04	\$(10,929.70)
Giant Card Funds	\$844.51	\$1,769.51	\$925.00
Weis Card Funds	\$1,820.00	\$395.00	\$(1,425.00)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$55,535.25	\$44,105.55	\$(11,429.70)
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$87,827.30	\$87,966.42	\$139.12
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,867.57	\$31,867.85	\$0.28
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$119,694.87	\$119,834.27	\$139.40
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$470,295.95	\$470,295.95	\$-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$645,526.07</b>	<b>\$634,235.77</b>	<b>\$(11,290.30)</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(84,424.04)	\$(84,316.09)	\$107.95
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$(84,424.04)</b>	<b>\$(84,316.09)</b>	<b>\$107.95</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$561,102.03</b>	<b>\$549,919.68</b>	<b>\$(11,182.35)</b>





## Staff Contacts

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# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class/Youth</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm SIAKs Committee Mtg 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>13</b> 6:00pm Friday the 13th Bingo</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:30am Men's breakfast: Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Newsletter articles due 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class/Youth</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Office Closed - Indigenous People's Day</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>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><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00pm Friday the 13th Bingo</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 10:30am Confirmation Registration 1:30pm Road Rally</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEERS: Fox Hall</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>8:00am Boscovs' "Friends Helping Friends" 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><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>End Walking Challenge 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 1:30am GRDP Walk 2:00pm Strolling Strings</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>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><b>26</b></p> <p>6:30pm Property Committee</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:00pm Trunk or Treat</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:30am Staff meeting</p>				