



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

September 2018 Newsletter



September 2018

Vol. 11 Issue 9

"Our Church Connection"

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Hello There!

The summer went by too quickly and I'm feeling one of those, "Really God?" moments. Those times when I look at something or hear about a situation and think, "really?" I love summer, the heat, vacation times, fun activities, ice cream! Then with a flick of a wrist the August page on the 2018 calendar gets torn away and September is revealed.

September is a weird month. It falls almost ¾ of the way through the calendar year, yet it is a month that is packed with new beginnings. Kids are all back in school by September. Football, fall soccer, dance lessons and other activities are starting up. Kidz Jam (Sunday School) and Faith Formation groups gear up for a new learning season. As we move into September, our minds are already starting to think about what we want to be for Halloween, who is cooking the Thanksgiving turkey, and how are we going to pay for Christmas again this year!

Given all the above, the "Really God?" question for me has a lot to do with how quickly time passes by. Summer is my favorite season and yet it moves so incredibly fast. My plans seem to have shifted somehow. I thought we were going to slow down this summer. What about all the plans we made and places we wanted to go? My list is not all checked off and I'm starting to think about putting away sleeveless tops and bringing out the sweaters. "Really God?" Can we at least get a little 'Do Over Time' since it rained so much this summer???

Whine, whine, whine. I'm fairly good at whining. But when I get it all out of my system, like I just did writing the above verbiage, I find myself wondering if God ever wants to say to me, "Really Becky?"

"Really Becky, have you taken a good look at your own life? Did you closely check out the world I created for you to live in? Do you see the beauty I carefully prepared for you to enjoy? Do you take time to hear my music through laughter, birds singing, oceans roaring and kind words? Do you realize the many, many times I have been reaching out to you each day?"

Funny how quickly my sarcastic, "Really God?" can be transformed into a humble "Thank you God." It doesn't matter what season or month we are in, our God is faithful through the all of time. Although I have no choice about moving into the fall season, I do have a choice how I will react to what is coming. Each moment spent seeking God in the midst of what is happening, is time well spent. So . . . Look out September! I'm moving forward and doing so with joy! I know some spectacular foliage and happenings are ahead and I need to be ready for them. That means with a good attitude and a grateful heart. Please consider joining me!

See You in Church,

St. John's UCC,
Fullerton
575 Grape Street,
Whitehall, PA
"Our Church
Connection"
newsletter is
published monthly.

Our Church Family



To St. John's UCC, Fullerton congregation,

Although we have enjoyed doing the filling sale for many years, it is with heartfelt consideration we decided to pass it on to someone else. We would like to thank all those who have helped us in the past and made our experience so enjoyable. Without all of you we never would have succeeded.

Fondly,
Karen Stoisits and Sally Gibson

UPDATE: Cheryl Weaver and Ruthann Hallman graciously accepted the challenge to take over the filling sale fundraiser. If you would like to help at filling time, please contact Cheryl at 610-443-0161 or Ruthann at 610-434-0314.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Card Shower for our son Joey. It's been very difficult for him during these last 16 months of confinement. As always, a special thank you goes to Pastor Becky for her regular visits. We are truly blessed by everyone's caring, support, comforting words, and by your never-ending prayers."

~ Paul and Carol Raszler



Thank you for promoting our Summer Breakfast Camp in your church's newsletter and bulletins. We did receive help in donations and volunteers thanks to your help. We are now half-way through our program for the summer and have sufficient supplies and volunteers. Thanks for all the help you provided.

~ Lana Snyder
Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative



Check out our new and improved website!
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org



Baptism

Quinn Adeline Fenstermacher was baptized into the faith on August 12th. Quinn is the daughter of Shannon and Nathan Fenstermacher. Quinn has an older sister, Reagan.

Upcoming Baptisms

- 8-26 @ 9:30AM – Elliott Watson
9-2 @ 9:30AM - Lyla Schmoyer
10-14 @8:15AM – Braxton Erney
@10:45AM – Owen Brudnak
10-28 @10:45AM – Mona Deigert



Hospital Admission Policies

When being admitted to an area hospital please inform them your church code is 473. Please have a member of your family also call and let us know you have been hospitalized.

Susan, our Office Administrator calls the hospitals daily but sometimes is not told of a member's admittance. We want to visit and pray for all of our members. Help us to know when you need us! Call the church and pastor.

*Hospital Code for our
church - 473*

Newsletter Deadline

The articles for the October newsletter are due on September 9th. The newsletter will be collated on Tuesday, September 18th at 9:00AM.

Weddings

7-14 - Jill and George Williams renewed their wedding vows at sunrise on the beach in Waikiki, Hawaii. They have been married 15 years.

Congratulations!

Birth

Congratulations to Jenna and Dan Wechsler on the birth of their son, **Henry Kenneth**.

He was born on August 15th and weighed 8lbs. 10oz. and was 20 ½ inches long.

Henry is the grandson of Susan, our Office Administrator and Rocky Kuder.

**Miller-Keystone
Blood Center**
Our Code – 0872

Deaths

Robert Folk died on July 15th and his life was celebrated on July 18th. He is survived by his wife, Annamae, a daughter and grandchildren.

Stanley Breisch died on July 25th and a private service celebrating his life was held on July 28th.

Kathleen Mullins died on August 4th. She is survived by a daughter, a son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her private service celebrating her life was held on August 13th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

September Anniversaries

September 1 Diane & James Buss – 34 years

September 6

Jo & Barry Wexler – 32 years

Shannon & Nathan Fenstermacher – 10 years

September 7 Tara & Scott Rapchak – 22 years

September 9

Tina & Richard Baatz, Jr. – 18 years

September 10 Betty & Dale Millham – 63 years

September 13 Carol & Paul Raszler – 49 years

September 14

Heather & Jamie Santee – 16 years

September 16

Phyllis & Frank Cszasz – 12 years

Barbara & Blaine Holden – 40 years

September 17 Paula & Richard Zart - 30 years

September 18

Kristine & Thomas Gersbach – 36 years

LeAnn & William Focht – 25 years

Danielle & Nathan Powell – 8 years

September 19

Nancy & Ronald Eichman – 54 years

Elyse & Michael Kern – 3 years

September 20

Kristen & Daniel Riedy – 16 years

September 23

Donna & Michael Piskula – 29 years

Amanda & Erik Volkert – 1 year

September 24

Cindy & Larry Martin – 41 years

Lori & Timothy Silfies – 35 years

September 25

Mary Ann & George Weaver – 25 years

Bonnie & Michael Frana - 19

September 26

Denise & Mark Moll – 37 years

Lora & Jeffrey Nailor – 31 years

Jamie & Andrew Kulhamer – 4 years

September 27

Diane & James Walter – 38 years

September 29

Joyce & Kenneth Dumbach – 28 years

Rebecca & William Cszasz – 6 years



Please Note: Grace and David Mohr's August anniversary was accidentally omitted from the August newsletter. Happy Anniversary to Grace and David on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on August 30th.



Church News



9:30am - September Worship Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Additional</u>
9-2	9:30 a.m.	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Holy Communion
9-9	9:30 a.m.	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Choir Returns
9-16	9:30 a.m.	Mark 8:27-38	Women's Retreat
9-23	8:15 & 10:45	Mark 9:30-37	Rally Day/Bless backpacks
9-30	8:15 & 10:45	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	New Members join

Fall Schedule Starts Up...

SEPTEMBER 23rd with two services:
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

We hope you took some time for refreshment and renewal this summer. Vacation time is an important time! We now hope that you will feel the tug to be back with your church family as we begin our fall season. Think about participating in our Adult Friendship Class or the Colorful Christians class. There is room at the Hamilton Family Restaurant table the first Saturday of the month for our Men's Breakfast group. Why not join the Lady Peeps once a month? Or maybe the Wine and Word group is right for you? We are always looking for new faces on our committees and hope you will think about serving.

*Grow in your faith. Get active.
Serve with joy (and lots of laughter)!
Wherever you are in this great
journey of life...
you will be welcome at St. John's*



Thursday Night Worship!

Alternative or In-Addition Services

September 20th - 7:00 p.m.
Stories and Songs

We will be worshipping our God by listening and singing to the beloved hymns and listening to stories from the faithful.

It has been such a great experience for members to share their stories but the true joy is in listening to stories from our faith family members.



Fellowship Hour "Thank You"

Thank you to all who hosted a Fellowship Hour this summer:

Evangelism	Schneck families
The Catalini family	Chancel Choir
Altar Guild	The Trippett family
"Fun"Raising Committee	Adult Bible Class
Healthcare Committee	Mission Committee
CELC Celebration	Consistory
Ralph & Janet Miller	"Fun"Raising Auction

Wine & Word

Our first 'Wine & Word' event was quite the success! 22 individuals signed up (20 was the max but whatever!) to attend the program at Pastor Becky's home. Our Consistory President Ted Hess supplied the wines, Pastor supplied the snacks and program.

The word we tore into was "listen." Lots of good discussion ensued as we got to know each other better and listened to each other's thoughts. At the end we decided that this event should continue to be offered.

We are now discussing where and when the next "Wine & Word" should happen. Stay tuned.

New Members:

Looking to be part of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton family? Know of someone who is? We are having a New Member's class on September 23rd at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Becky's office. Our new members will be joining on September 30th. Please call the church office or let a pastor know of your interest.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



Women's Retreat Is... "Seasons Of Love"

We are excited to be retreating again at Tuscarora Inn to learn more about ourselves and each other. This special time is for learning, loving, relaxing, and renewing. The ladies will once again be leading a future worship service that you will not want to miss.

Children & Communion

How old is old enough to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion? How much education should one have, if any?

A decade or so ago St. John's made the decision that parents were to decide when their child was ready to participate in the sacrament. St. John's has had many individuals join from other faith traditions. Some children had been receiving Holy Communion in second grade or younger. Today we invite anyone who would like to participate to join us at the table. We believe something sacred happens. We believe this is part of the mystery of our faith. We also believe it is the responsibility of the church to educate.

Thursday September 27th 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. the pastors are inviting parents and children who are interested, to come and learn. The time will be tailored to the young. There will be an opportunity to touch, see, ask questions and more. Stories will be shared. Then on October 7th at 10:45 World Communion Sunday, those who feel ready will be invited to commune.

Questions? Please feel free to speak with our pastors. You are also invited to sign up by calling the church office. We look forward to learning with you.

Service Auction –

Join us Sunday, August 26 after the worship service downstairs in Fox Hall. There are lots of items to bid on and there will be refreshments to enjoy. Don't miss out!



Consistory Members

Are you feeling called to help on the leadership team at St. John's? We seek to build this group with a balance of ages, worship attending times, length of membership, and more. It is considered an honor to be invited to lead and so we look for enthusiast prayerful individuals who seek to grow in their faith while encouraging others to do the same. We have been truly blessed to have many either nominate themselves or others and we seldom hear a 'no' to those who have been asked.

Our Consistory meets monthly. They share ushering when we have Holy Communion. They are the eyes and ears of our congregation and serve with the intension of growing our church family. They are prayerful.

Think about it... pray about it... if you are feeling called to a leadership role please speak with a pastor, Consistory member or elder.



Scripture Readers & Ushers

Are you looking for a way to serve our God? Consider becoming a scripture reader or usher. Please let us know of your interest by calling Nancy Dougherty (ushers) at 610-760-8361 or the church office (610-264-8421). You will have your choice of 8:15 or 10:45. We want people who are enthusiastic about serving as worship leaders. Think about it. . . or better yet... pray about it.

The Men's Breakfast Group



Breakfast

The Men's group of St. John's now meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant in Allentown.

We would be pleased to have you join us.

Our next meeting date is September 1st at 8:30AM.

"Give-Back Night" – Friendly's Restaurant

Join us on **Tuesday, September 25, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Friendly's Restaurant** located at 1491 MacArthur Rd. by the Lehigh Valley Mall. From your dinner receipt, 10% will be donated back to St. John's. No voucher is required; however, be sure to check in with someone from the "Fun"Raising Committee who will be there to greet you.



Turkey Pot Pie Sale

Our delicious Turkey Pot Pie will be made on Friday, October 19. Cost is \$7.00 a quart. A sign-up sheet for orders will be in the rear of the sanctuary shortly. You can also call Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 to place your order. Deadline to order is Sunday, October 7.

Pickup times are that Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or after each worship service on Sunday, October 21. **If anyone would like to donate a turkey, please contact Carol.**



“Catch the Aloha Spirit”

The **Lady PEEPS** will have its first meeting of the new season on **Tuesday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201.** (Note date change!)

Come join us as we explore “**The Aloha Spirit.**” We will learn about some of the Hawaiian culture, taste some tropical foods, and have fun getting to know more about our fellow Lady PEEPS.

This new season will be filled with lots of relaxing fun, learning, bonding, and laughter. If you haven’t had a chance to join us, now is a great time to see what this Women’s Group is all about. We hope to see you there!



Cheesecake Sale



If you were lucky enough to get a piece of one of **Andie Dallago’s** scrumptious homemade cheesecakes at the “Fun”Raising Committee’s sale back in June, now’s your chance to place your order for another Cheesecake Sale on **Sunday, September 30.** At a cost of \$10.00 for an 8” cheesecake (they freeze well), you can select any of the following:

- ★ Brownie vanilla cheesecake with chocolate ganache
- ★ Vanilla bean cheesecake with white chocolate mousse & shaved white chocolate

A sign-up sheet for orders is in the lounge area or you can call Andie at 610-504-6598. Only 25 of each will be made. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, September 23.**

Gift Card Bingo

November 2nd @ 7:00PM
(Doors open at 6:00PM)

Tickets will be available in the near future.
Cost of ticket \$20.00 in advance
\$25.00 at the door.



Scrip Gift Card Orders –

Deadlines to order cards are October 5 and November 23rd. Order forms will be in the parlor and will include cards for your favorite stores for everyday shopping as well as for gifts.



American Music Theater Christmas Show

Saturday, November 10, 2018

In order to get you in the mood for Christmas and get an early start on your Christmas shopping, The Fun Committee is running a bus trip to Lancaster County. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 8:00AM for a full day of shopping and fun.

We will arrive at Kitchen Kettle Village at approximately 10:00AM for 2 hours of shopping. Stock up on your favorite foods from Kitchen Kettle Cannery and bakery or browse the many stores for unique and treasured Christmas gifts. At noon, board the bus for a short drive to the Rockvale Outlet Mall for more bargain shopping (approximately 2 1/2 hours). At 2:30PM the bus will take us to the beautiful American Music Theater for a fantastic Christmas variety show which will definitely put you in the holiday spirit.

Supper will be at the Bird-in-Hand Smorgasbord before heading for home. We expect to arrive back at the church by 8:00/8:30PM, exhausted and full.

A bag lunch will be provided; consisting of a sandwich, chips and drink. There will be drawings, give aways, not to mention a lot of fun and fellowship. Please join us for the day. ***Deadline to reserve a seat is October 21st.***

Please contact Barbara or Kevin Hoderman (610-737-0080) with questions or to make your reservations. Full payment is due at booking. Checks should be made out to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Credit cards are also accepted with a small users' fee. And, of course, cash is always accepted.



IronPigs Night – August 13th

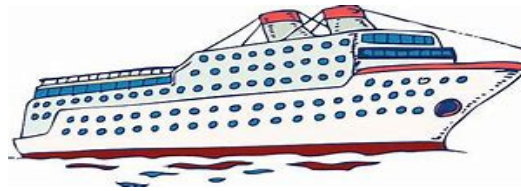


Despite torrential downpours and flash flooding all day long, the weather finally settled down by game time. It was a great night at Coca Cola Park on Monday, August 13, where most of our 81 St. John's baseball fans braved the weather forecast and watched the **IronPigs** play the Durham Bulls. With lots of action right from the start, the IronPigs crushed the Bulls by a score of 10 to 3. Hotdogs were \$1 all night long. The Phillie Phanatic, along with mascots Ferrous and FeFe, provided entertainment for the crowd. Steve Carlton baseballs were given away to the first 1500 youngsters who attended. We watched Birthday Boy, **Mike Gravely**, throw out the first pitch. **Amy Feidler** was awarded an IronPigs baseball hat when her name was selected from the raffle tickets. **Bill Fink** caught an IronPigs T-shirt that was sling-shot into the grandstand, which he promptly gave away to the **\$zoke boys, Zach and Ryan**. We watched **Andrew and Matthew Madura** play the bongos on the big screen. **Carol Raszler** was given a 10th anniversary commemorative medallion in appreciation for organizing the group outings for the church since IronPigs inception. It was an awesome time of fun and fellowship!

SAVE
the
DATE

Cruise Ship Dinner Theatre

*With St. John's Players and produced by the
FunRaising Committee*



What: By popular demand, please join us for a fun night out for the entire family. Dinner buffet and live action theatre with some audience participation. This event sells out fast, so purchase your tickets early.

When: Saturday, October 13th at 6:00pm sharp

Where: Fox Hall

Cost: Tickets are \$15.00 for adults; \$8.00 children ages 5-12; Free for children under age 5

You will be able to purchase your tickets in the parlor after church from one of the committee members beginning in August or contact the church office at 610-264-8421. Deadline to purchase tickets will be Sunday, September 30th. **TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW.**

Dinner Theater Menu:

- ✓ Fresh fruit cup
- ✓ Chef's choice of vegetable
- ✓ Roasted eye-round of beef with red wine demi-glace
- ✓ Eggplant parmesan
- ✓ Pan-seared boneless chicken breast with slow-roasted garlic crème sauce, garnished with diced tomatoes and a chiffonade of basil
- ✓ Rolls & butter
- ✓ Steak house roasted red bliss potatoes

Would You Like the Newsletter Emailed to You?

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send your email address to Susan Kuder at stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com. By getting an emailed copy of the newsletter it saves the church money by using less paper, less ink usage, and lower mailing costs. Also, if you get it emailed, you will receive your newsletter quicker than through regular mail.

Road Rally

This year's Road Rally will be held on October 21st. Mark that date on your calendar to join in this fun-filled day!



Consistory Corner

The Consistory is the elected leadership body of St. John's. They spend time building relationships with each other so that they can work and make decisions well together. It is important that the members be visible in worship, in committees and in the overall life of St. John's and you should know them.



Ted Hess, Consistory President

My wife and I have been a member of St. John's for several years. I am currently retired but taught Physics and Chemistry at Whitehall high School for 43 years. In our spare time, when not enjoying our grandchildren, we like to travel as much as time allows.

I love dogs, reading and working in my flower and vegetable garden. I also love helping to teach Sunday School, Altar Guild and Evangelism and volunteering whenever I am able.



Kim Hillegass



St. John's UCC, Fullerton Mission Statement

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

This community of faith is an open and accepting 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.

New Hampshire Association of the Massachusetts Conference

St John's welcomed the New Hampshire Association of the Massachusetts Conference Youth RYE & Mission Trip! They stayed with us to participate in mission work for the Lehigh Conference of Churches from July 15th – July 19th. We were very excited to meet them and get to know them better as we serve our awesome God this summer!

To Pastor Michelle and Pastor Becky,
and St. John's UCC Youth Group,

Thank you for all you did to make our trip wonderful! Your extravagant hospitality and kindness are a clear example of Jesus' love.

Peace,
New Hampshire Association Travelers



To St. John's UCC, Fullerton,

Just a note of thanks for sending your Massachusetts guests over to the Conference. They are a wonderful group of people. They accomplished a miracle in prepping and painting one of our long neglected rooms.

John E. Felch, Jr., D.Sc.
Executive Director
Lehigh Conference of Churches

On a Side Note ...



One of the adults with the group from the New Hampshire Association was a former member of Dubbs. (Small world!)

She writes: It's like coming home! As a former Dubbs Memorial member thanks for the opportunity to help.

Carolyn Ressler Goepfert

September 2018 Music Notes

As I am preparing this article, I am thinking about crisp autumn air, two worship services, and choirs rehearsing. But today the air is not crisp, as the temperature has hit 91 degrees again and the humidity is high. Pastor Becky and I have selected hymns for the months of September and October and I can picture the seasons changing in my mind. But what does not change is my love for hymns. My mother and grandmother constantly sang hymns to me as I was growing up. We all have our favorites and mine will be sung on September 30th.



“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” was written by Martin Luther around 1527.

We think of Martin Luther as a great reformer, Bible translator, political leader, fiery preacher, and theologian. But he was also a musician, having been born in an area of Germany known for its music. Young Martin grew up in his little Thuringian village listening to his mother sing. He joined a boys’ choir that sang at weddings and funerals. He became proficient with the flute (recorder), and his volcanic emotions often erupted in song.

When the Protestant Reformation began, Luther was determined to restore worship to the German Church. He worked with skilled musicians to create new music for Christians. He helped revive congregational singing and wrote a number of hymns.

Luther’s most famous hymn is “Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott,”—“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Based on Psalm 46, it reflects Luther’s awareness of our intense struggle with Satan. In difficulty and danger, Luther would often resort to this song, saying to his associate, “Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm.”

This is a difficult hymn to translate because the original German is so vivid. At least 80 English versions are available. And I like to think of this hymn as “an oldie, but goodie”, since it was written in the 1500’s. I think of the tune as being majestic and stately.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Musically,

Gail



Choir Schedule

- ◆ Chancel Choir begins Wednesday, September 5th, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- ◆ Jubilation Choir begins Monday, September 17th, 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm
- ◆ Handbell Choir begins Monday, September 17th, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- ◆ Children’s Choir will begin in November and more information will be in future articles.



Please consider joining one or more of the choirs. We need voices and hands. If you have questions, please feel free to speak with me.

Gail Hanzl

Christian Education and Youth

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 23
9:30AM



Join us as we kick off the new faith formation year with our Rally Day Extravaganza on Sunday September 23rd at 9:30am! Save time on rally day and quickly & easily register online! www.tinyurl.com/sjff2018

Blessing Of Backpacks & Installation Of Faith Formation Teachers

Join us on Sunday, September 23rd at the 10:45 am worship service as we install our Faith Formation Teachers and Bless Backpacks! Bring your backpack, laptop case, tote bag for a blessing!

Our 2018-2019 Faith Formation Classes And Teachers

KidZ JAM (preschool-6th grade)

Preschool (Room 101) – Teacher TBD

Kindergarten – 1st grade (Room 103) –
Karen Stoitsits & Ruthann Hallman

2nd – 4th grade (Room 301) –
Kathy Nelson & Jayne Shankweiler

5th – 6th grade (Room 303) –
Kim Hillegass & Lora Nailor

Youth

Confirmation 7th & 8th grade (Room 305) –
Sue Weldner & Pastor Michelle

Youth 9th – 12th grade (Room 306) –
Barbara Seeds & Pastor Michelle

Adults

Colorful Christians (Room 302) – Melanie Eckert
Friendship Bible Class (Room 201) – Tom Moyer

Rolling River Rampage VBS

We had a great time experiencing the ride of a lifetime with God! Our rafters have learned to become spiritual individuals and we explored how to serve God! We had a great time exploring Stations including Music, crafts, games, snack, and Bible Story!



A huge thank you to all that made this year's VBS a huge success! To Sharon Czekner our Director and her sidekick Bob, our station leaders and crew leaders, our teen leaders, those that helped with prepping, supply & monetary donations, and our entire congregation for your support and prayers! We are excited to begin planning next years "To Mars and Beyond" VBS! It's going to be "out of this world!" growing in our faith & spending time with God!

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities!

This is your invitation to come join the Colorful Christians or Friendship Bible Class! We hope to see you on Rally Day when Sunday School resumes September 23.

“**Colorful Christians**” meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in Room 302! On Sunday mornings we gather together to reflect on scripture and support each other, all while enjoying the relaxing and meditative act of coloring. You are all invited to come and enjoy this fun class and meet new friends! Facilitator– Melanie Eckert



“**Friendship Bible Class**” meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in Room 201. Different members teach each week and offer a variety of topics including Bible stories, scripture, parables, current events, Bible Trivia, and much more. Stop in for a cup of coffee and refreshments and join in the discussion.

Facilitator – Tom Moyer

Thank you to **Bill and Lori Fink for hosting the Friendship Bible class picnic on July 28—great weather, delicious food, and a time of fellowship and fun—look for pictures on the church’s website.



Youth Group Begins!

Our Youth Group meetings begin again on Monday, September 24th!

Middler Youth Group (6th-8th grades) will meet Monday evenings 5:00 pm - 6:00pm. Leaders – Pastor Michelle & Corrina Schneck

Sr. Youth Group will meet Monday evenings 7:00 pm - 8:00pm.
Leader – Pastor Michelle

Sr. Youth Group Leader Opportunity!

If you enjoy working with high schoolers please speak with Pastor Michelle about a great opportunity to serve and get to know the teens of St J’s better! No experience necessary!

Mini Youth Group (Kindergarten – 2nd grade) & **Jr. Youth Group** (grades 3rd-5th) will meet October - April on the first Tuesday of each Month from 5:30 pm - 7:00pm. Dinner will be served. **FIRST MEETING** – Tuesday, October 3rd!

Leaders – Mini Youth Group – Kristen Riedy JR Youth Group – Wendy Fox

If you would like to volunteer to make our meal one of these months, please let Pastor Michelle know stjohnsucc.youth@rcn.com or 610-264-8421 Your generosity & help is greatly appreciated!



PNEC Sleepout for Homelessness

PNEC Sleep Out For Homelessness
(for Youth Grades 7th – 12th) At Forks UCC, 4500 Sullivan Trail, Stockertown, PA Saturday, September 29 at 6pm –

Sunday, September 30 at 9am
Registration & Sponsorship forms located in youth room (Room 305) Please let Pastor Michelle know by no later than September 14th if you are planning on attending!

Confirmation Class Parent's Meeting

We will be having a parent's meeting for all confirmands (First and Second year) and their parents/guardians on Sunday, September 9th 9:30 am – 10:30 am. Please make sure at least one adult attends with your confirmand. We will be going over the class requirements for the 2018-2019 year.



Do you enjoy working with small children?

We are seeking volunteers for our children & youth ministries! We are looking for a teacher for the KidZ JAM Preschool class. If you are feeling a desire to work with our children and/or youth, and to be a part of something greater than yourself, please speak with Pastor Michelle or someone on the Christian Ed committee.

"Reflections From Philly... A Mission Trip Discussion" Monday, September 10th at 6:30 pm

Our teens and leaders had a wonderful experience in Philadelphia serving others and learning about homelessness. We are planning this time to share with the congregation & friends all the experiences they had. The group will be sharing reflections on how their faith has grown through serving God and others. We hope you will join us!

Mission Trip 2018 – Sr. Youth Group in Philadelphia!

We had an amazing week of service, faith, friends and fun August 6th – August 11th at Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia. We served at Blaire Christian Academy, MANNA, Street Ministry, St. Mary's Shelter, SHARE Food Pantry, and Old First UCC Saturday Breakfast Ministry.



Mission Moment!



Neighbors in Need – “Love of Neighbor”

*If scripture commands, “love your neighbor as you love yourself,”
Then Who is My Neighbor?~ Matthew 22:39*

Neighbors in Need (NIN) supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

One-third of the offering also supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minnesota, where these churches and their pastors are given support. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. **Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert and special offering envelope for NIN. This offering will be received during the worship service on Sunday, October 7.**

CROP Hunger Walk



CROP is an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission when it began back in 1947 was to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, they’ve outgrown the acronym, but they retain it as the historic name of the program.

With the funds raised, 25% remains within the Lehigh Valley to support the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen. The other 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief (communities in the U.S. and around the world devastated by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.) and development assistance (assisting poor families with clean drinking water, seeds, tools, and irrigation).

This year’s CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 14, starting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, located at 140 S. Ott St. in Allentown.

St. John’s needs walkers and sponsors! If you would like to be a walker and/or sponsor a walker, you can sign up in the parlor after worship or **contact Marion DeMilio** at 610-797-9652 or email at momoyer@ptd.net or **Linda Smith** at 610-791-1554 or email at bedivere@ptd.net. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of September, donations are needed for the following: **coffee, macaroni and cheese, canned peas, canned corn, and cereal.** A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions, as well as any other non-perishable food items, can be made at any time throughout the year. **A special monetary offering for the Whitehall Food Pantry will be taken during worship on Sunday, September 30.**

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

† **Backpack and School Supplies Drive** – All the items that were collected in July were delivered to the Whitehall-Coplay School District on August 14. Everything from pencils to composition books to binders and much more were donated. A final tally on these items will appear in the next newsletter. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

† **Fundraiser Tithing** – It is the policy at St. John’s that 10% of all our gross profits from our fundraisers shall be tithed to various charities or organizations. At the end of June and for the first half of the year, a total of \$724.27 was distributed evenly to the following: **Lehigh Conference of Churches, Sixth Street Shelter, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Valley Youth House, and Zion’s UCC Jubilee Breakfast.**

† **Jubilee Breakfast Ministry** – When the weather gets colder, we will again prepare meals once a month, November through April, for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry held at Zion’s UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown. This ministry is to provide breakfasts from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for the homeless, working poor, or whoever is in need of food. Last year 4,000 meals were served to an average of 58 homeless and working poor guests per day (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). **Nancy Dougherty** is coordinating the breakfasts, and she is starting to make a list of people who would be willing to volunteer for this service. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please **contact Nancy at 610-760-8361 or email at nancydough@msn.com.**

How did St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	July	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,312.08	\$10,785.32
Whitehall Food Bank	-0-	\$ 763.00
CWS Blankets	\$ 20.00	\$ 693.00 Campaign Completed
One Great Hour of Sharing	-0-	\$ 978.00 Campaign Completed
Strengthen the Church	-0-	\$ 569.00 Campaign Completed

Healthcare Ministry

St. John's Healthcare Committee hopes that everyone is having a nice summer! The past few weeks have been especially hot and humid. If you have spent anytime outside lately, even the mild exertion of walking or gardening, for example, have left you dripping in sweat. The more you sweat, the more you need to REHYDRATE to replenish the water that your body needs to function properly.



Water makes up at least two-thirds of the human body. It plays a large part in your normal functions, such as lubricating your joints and eyes, keeping your skin healthy by eliminating toxins and facilitating proper digestion. When you feel thirsty, it's definitely time to replace your lost fluids!

Besides feeling thirsty or sweating too much, some of the signs of mild to moderate dehydration can be dry mouth, sleepiness or tiredness, dry skin, headache, constipation, dizziness or lightheadedness, few or no tears when crying, minimal urine and muscle cramps. If the dehydration gets severe, it can lead to low blood pressure, sunken eyes, irritability and confusion, dry skin that doesn't bounce back when you pinch it, rapid heartbeat, rapid breathing, fever and even unconsciousness. Chronic dehydration can affect your organs and lead to kidney stones, cholesterol problems, constipation, liver and joint or muscle damage.



We can all suffer from dehydration, but there are some instances that make you more prone to it. Mountain climbers, athletes, infants, children and the elderly are more likely to suffer from dehydration if not careful. Also, people with kidney disease, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, adrenal gland disorders and alcoholism are more susceptible. Certain medications can contribute to dehydration, as well as repeated bouts of vomiting or diarrhea.

The best ways to avoid dehydration is to drink plenty of water each day, especially if you are active or sick. Fruits and vegetables also contain water and many nutrients as well, so stock up on these everyday! A tall glass of water with a good squeeze of lemon is a great way to kickstart your day!

Zucchini Cobbler

This recipe was a huge hit at The Friendship Class picnic. What a great way to get vegetables into one's diet! Thank you Melissa Szoke for sharing this delicious recipe.



8 c. chopped, seeded, peeled zucchini

2/3 c. lemon juice

1 c. sugar

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Crust

4 c. flour

2 c. sugar

1 1/2 c. cold butter, cubed

1 tsp. cinnamon



1. In a large saucepan over med-low heat, cook and stir zucchini and lemon juice 15-20 minutes or until tender. Add sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg; cook 1 minute longer. Remove from heat and set aside.
2. For crust, combine flour and sugar, cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir 1/2 c. into zucchini mixture. Press half of remaining mixture into a greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch baking pan. Spread zucchini over top; crumble remaining crust mix over zucchini. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
3. Bake 375 degrees 35-40 minutes or until golden and bubbly.



Recycle Cartridges . . . Save Money!!!

Thank you everyone who continuously bring their used ink cartridges to the church for recycling.

Through Staples rewards program, for each cartridge we return to them our church receives \$2.00. With that reward money we can save on future items we purchase at Staples. Great Job!!

9:30AM Worship Service Information

September 2nd – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Hymns: Jesus, Name Above All Names
Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
Lord of the Dance

Elders: Marion DeMilio and Kim Hillegass

Ushers - Colleen Kulhamer, Connie Viglione, John Viglione, Ginny Brokenshire, Bob Dougherty,
Sharon Antrim, Doris Smith and Judith Miranda

Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim

Acolyte: Gregory Sommer

STARs Tech: Joe Trippett

September 9th – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17

Hymns: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
From the Crush of Wealth and Power
Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Scripture Reader: Anne Welsh

Acolyte: Corrina Schneck

STARs Tech: Don Schneck

September 16th – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

Hymns: Lift High the Cross
The Summons
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Scripture Reader: Susan Weldner

Acolyte: Karly Myers

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer

Resume 8:15AM and 10:45AM Worship

September 23rd – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Hymns: I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
Jesus Loves Me
Pass It On

8:15AM

Scripture Reader: Mary Jane Ott

Acolyte: Gregory Sommer

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass

Acolyte: Eireann Hunsicker

STARs Tech: Don Schneck

September 30th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Hymns: We Gather Together
God's Eye Is on the Sparrow
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

8:15AM

Scripture Reader: Mary Jane Ott

Acolyte: Parker Christman

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer

10:45AM

Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass

Acolyte: Madison Musselman

STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts



Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass & Margaret Young

Staff

Rev. Dr. Becky J. Beckwith,
Senior Pastor
stjohnsucc.pastor@rcn.com

Assistant Pastor Michelle Funk, L.M.
stjohnsucc.youth@rcn.com

Rev. David Quinn,
Interim Visitation Pastor
pedalinpastor@gmail.com

Mrs. Gail Hanzl
Director of Music
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Mrs. Emilie Moyer, Pianist

Mrs. Susan Kuder
Office Administrator
stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com

Mrs. Susan Weldner, Treasurer
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gary.weaver53@aol.com

Mr. Dan Riedy – Custodian

Mr. Robert Czekner – Custodian

Mrs. Michelle Gutekunst –
EZ Worship Tech

Consistory

- Ginny Brokenshire
- Kenda Catalini
- Sharon Czekner, Vice-President
- Bob Dougherty
- Wendy Fox
- Mike Gravely
- Ted Hess, President
- Kim Hillegass
- Colleen Kulhamer
- Melissa Mendiolina, Youth Deacon
- Pete Mohr
- Paul Raszler
- Dewey Yeatts

Committees & Chairpersons

- Altar Guild – Kim Hillegass & Nancy Dougherty
- Altar Flowers – Sally Gibson – 610-264-1210
- Bowling & Softball – Donald Schneck – 610-216-2707
- Christian Education – Kathy Nelson
- Church Usage – Donna Brown – 610-797-0246
- Community Celebrates – Jinny Hess – 610-821-8856
- Crafters Group – Ruthann Hallman 610-434-0314 & Carol Raszler – 610-965-4299
- Evangelism – Kenda Catalini – 484-358-7453
- “Fun” Raising Committee – Tracey Glass (610-432-4997)
- Healthcare – Marion DeMilio – 610-797-9652
- Interior – Connie Viglione – 610-398-9663
- Mission – Robert Dougherty
- Personnel – Robert Scheirer
- Prayer Chain – Mary Jane Ott – 610-434-9732
- Property – Charlie Apple – 610-928-7193
- STARS – Susan Rarich - 610-737-9843
- Stewardship & Finance – Gary Madaus
- Visitation – Blodwyn Wetherhold – 610-428-8316
- Women’s Group – Colleen Kulhamer – 610-264-2499 ckulhamer@aol.com
- Worship & Music – Cheryl Weaver – 610-443-0161
- Youth Ministry – Kenda Catalini

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:00PM
610-264-8421

Summer Worship Service - 9:30AM
Return to Two Services on September 23rd
– 8:15AM and 10:45AM

St. John’s UCC, Fullerton Website

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org