



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

November 2018 Newsletter



November 2018

Vol. 11 Issue 11

"Our Church Connection"

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Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. 2 Corinthians 9:7 MSG

Dear St John's Family & Friends,
Children often teach the most profound lessons.

It was a simple act, one I had seen many times in the past. The three-year-old had been swiping away at her paper with a crayon. There was little effort to stay within the lines. She joyfully watched as more color came onto her paper with every swipe of her own hand. She was happy.

When her coloring masterpiece was complete she stood up and admired her work. After a few seconds her smile grew even bigger as she ran over to her mother, coloring sheet in hand. The little girl jumped up and down with excitement as she shouted, "Mommy, Mommy, this is for you!" The child beamed with joy! She had created something and she generously was giving her creation, as a gift, to another. The little girl could have held on to her treasure. She could have run to her room and put her treasure somewhere to keep it safe and away from the eyes of others. But she did not. She gave away her treasure. She gave away something she considered to be very valuable and that made her happy!

I was left wondering, at what age we are taught to be generous? Is this something many parents teach their children? Are acts of generosity something most adults practice? Do we give with a joy-filled heart or do we give because we feel we must?

As I watched the little girl generously turn over her treasure to Mom I wondered. Was the child taught to be generous or was this something that was part of her nature. Then I reflected deeper. If this was part of her human nature, then why aren't human beings more willing to be generous? Is generosity something we 'unlearn' as we grow older and try to keep more treasures for ourselves?

At our recent Consistory meeting I asked each member to share what brings them joy. As we moved around the table speaking of grandchildren, family, nature and more, one individual said, "It brings me joy to be generous, I love giving things away."

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575 Grape Street,
Whitehall, PA
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newsletter is
published monthly.**

There is great joy that comes from generosity. We don't talk about that enough. There is a special feeling that comes when we give. The joy that comes from giving is awesome. The little girl felt that joy.

What I remember most of this child/mom encounter was how happy the child was to give someone a gift. Her act of generosity brought her joy. As she gave yet she received. When you participate in the act of generosity you put others before yourself, then you may find that it is you who get the greater gift.

My family gathers together each Thanksgiving at our home. We have created several traditions that I now hold sacred. One given is the table will be loaded down with food well beyond what we consume. The grandkids will each say a prayer before we eat and I'll silently thank God for how each person around our table has been a gift to my life. It will be a good day. God has generously blessed us. I want us to generously bless others – and we will start with our church.

Happy Thanksgiving!!! See you in church!!!

Becky



Thank You!!!



Dear Pastor Becky,

We just wanted to say thank you for being so wonderful. You have made both of our girls so at home at church. They adore you! You always go above and beyond and we truly love you for that. Bailee and Brinlee loved your Communion classes!

Beth and Gary Neitz

Hi Susan and Becky,

Thank you for organizing the Women's retreat. You both did a wonderful job. Hopefully I will be able to attend the next one.

Kathy Haggerty

Dear Pastor Dave,

Many thanks to you for your visits to the hospital and also at my home for communion.

I also enjoyed the pretty flowers and the conversation we shared together.

Sincerely,
Janet S. Miller



thanks a bunch

Dear Pastor Becky,

Just wanted to let you know how much the past weekend meant to me.

I wanted to thank you so much for all you did to make the women's retreat weekend full of love.

Joy Gravely



Many thanks to all who made St. John's Dinner Theater a rousing success! Special thanks to Chef Joe Catalini and his 1929 kitchen crew for preparing a great feast, and to Dewey & DonnaLee Yeatts for creating and directing the masterful play we all enjoyed.

Dear Becky and Susan,

This women's retreat weekend brought me closer to God and all the beauty and goodness He provides, leaving me with a proud sense of peace and contentment.

I've been to many seminars and even helped to plan a few so I know how much time, effort and hard work went into planning this event. And you made it look so seamless. Kudos and thank you both and all who helped put the retreat together.

With heartfelt thanks,
Heidi Baer



Dear Friends of St. John's Fullerton UCC,

Thank you for your recent gift to CWS Blankets and Tools!

Your gift enables CWS to provide much needed blankets after disaster strikes or to keep someone warm on a cold night. It ensures families have seeds and tools for a home garden or nets to fish.

In peace,
Erin Luckenbill, CWS



thanks a bunch

Dear Rev. Beckwith and St. John's
UCC, Fullerton congregation,

On behalf of the Lehigh Conference of Churches thank you for your recent committed contribution to support our neighbors who are in need.

For more than 60 years, The Lehigh Conference of Churches has brought together area congregations like yours in responding to the needs of "the least among us" while building ecumenical and interfaith partnerships and fostering unity within the body of Christ. With you we can carry out the work of God well beyond the church walls, providing housing, hope and healing to those who need it most.

The Conference of Churches is most grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership in ministry.

Faithfully,
Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Esq.
Ecumenical Director

Thank you to all our blood donors at St. John's. October 7 was another successful blood drive. 21 units of blood were collected. I'm proud of all of you for the lives you are saving. I know there are several people who will be going directly to the blood bank. Remember, our church code is 0872. Please mark your 2019 calendar for our next blood drive, April 7, 2019.

God Bless You All,
Sharon Antrim
Healthcare Committee



thanks a bunch

Dear Friends,

"Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of challenges, you are standing with them. Your contribution provides relief and hope to those who have lost homes due to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes or other disasters; to migrant families facing cold and wet conditions; to refugees who have just arrived in the U.S. to build a new future; to guests in homeless shelters; and to those struggling with poverty. Because of you, CWS is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed."

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO
Church World Service

Dear Michelle and St. John's UCC, Fullerton congregation,

Thank you for your recent donation in support of our very important programs. Your generosity will continue to help Valley Youth House in its mission to become the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections.

Our positive outcomes and legacy of excellence would not be possible without the support of thoughtful people like you. On behalf of Valley Youth House and those we serve, thank you for your help in expanding our reach to the most vulnerable youth and families within our community.

Sincerely,
Christina J. Schoemaker, M.B.A.
Senior Vice President, Development & Marketing
Valley Youth House

Our Church Family



Births

Sofie Claire Miller was born on October 4th to parents Amy and Jairus at St. Luke's, Allentown. She weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces, and was 20 ½" Sofie has a big sister Felicity. Noreen and Bruce Miller are her grandparents.

Bailey Rose Kulhamer was born on October 5th at Lehigh Valley Cedar Crest. She weighed 6 lb. 3 oz and was 19" long. Bailey is the second daughter of Jamie and Andrew. Riley is her big sister. Colleen and Michael Kulhamer are her grandparents

Congratulations to these families!

Wedding

12-8 Nicole Perez & John Williams

Baptisms

Braxton Adam Erney was baptized on October 14th at the 8:15AM worship service. His parents are Jacklyn and Daniel Erney. Beth and David Erney are Braxton's grandparents.

Owen Gene Brudnak was baptized on October 14th at the 10:45AM worship service. Owen's parents are Taylor and Bryan Brudnak. Owen has an older brother Oliver.

Upcoming Baptisms

10-28 @10:45AM - Mona Sophia Deigert
11-11 @10:45AM - Henry Kenneth Wechsler

Change of Address:

Barbara & Jeff Seeds
1751 Lord Byron Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Rebecca & William Cszasz
1240 Washington Street, Apt. 5
Whitehall, PA 18052

Ryan & Michelle Brobst
Ethan, Grant
307 Mud Lane
Northampton, PA 18067-9342

Kim & Robert Saeger
Tommy, Zane
4214 Geryville Pike
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Gary Bruder
Shari
4312 Locust Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078-2524

Alycia DeMilio
29 Imperial Pk. Dr.
Middletown, NY 10941-1775



Deaths

David Hallman died on September 29th in an explosion in Allentown. David is survived by his son Dave and wife Fanny and a grandson. His Celebration of Life Service was held on October 13th.

Kelly Ann Whitton died on October 9th in her home. Kelly is survived by daughters Emilie, Kylie and son Tyler who is a student in our Faith Formation program. Kelly's Celebration of Life was on October 14th.

Marion Kulhamer died on October 10th. Marion is survived by a son John. Her Celebration of Life service was held on October 16.

Betty Peischl died on September 29th. Betty is survived by sisters Jeanne Fischl and Dolly Holler. Her Celebration of Life service was held on October 3.

Scripture Readers & Ushers

We have placed a sign-up sheet for scripture readers and ushers in the back of the sanctuary. It filled up fast but there are still some openings. Please call 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 God as worship leaders. Think about it... or better yet... pray about it.

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

Children & Communion

On October 7th, three of our youth participated in their first Holy Communion on World Communion Sunday. Elijah Fox, Brinlee Neitz and Tyler Shankweiler met with Pastor Becky to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion. They came along with a parent. At the World Communion Sunday services, they assisted the pastors in the sharing of the elements. Congratulations to these three on this important step in their faith!

November Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| November 1 | Denise & Carl Harry, Sr. – 43 years |
| November 3 | Julie & Conrad Beck – 34 years |
| November 6 | Joanne & William Wasley, Jr. – 36 years |
| November 9 | Linda & Thomas Germuga – 50 years
Tara & Craig Bryant – 16 years |
| November 11 | – Dee & Randy Schlenker – 18 years
Debra & William Hausman – 23 years |
| November 19 | Emilie & Thomas Moyer – 58 years |
| November 23 | Lori & William Fink – 10 years |
| November 24 | Donna & Matthew Rice – 39 years |
| November 27 | Linda & Stanley Luckenbill – 49 years
Lynn & Donald Miller, Jr. – 42 years |

HAPPY 
anniversary

Bible Presentation – 2018 Recipients

St. John's proudly gives Bibles to our young students. On October 21st Children's Sabbath, we gave Bibles to our Preschool, 2nd grade class and our youth starting Confirmation.

Preschool

Cameron Brosious
Owen Dovico
Aubrey Funches
Michael Gutekunst
Ellesyn Kilpatrick
Chloe Martin
Isabella Pagan
Daniel Schlenker
Landon Troxell
Mia Venanzi

Second Grade

Arianna Attieh
Gabriel Braun
Matthew Buskirk
Connor Dimmick
Maci Dovico
Aiden Hannis
Liam Kress
Tyler Lucas
Brinlee Neitz
Kaylee Pagan
Leia Stocker
Xavier Stoss
Zachary Szoke
Patrick Yoder

First Year Confirmands

Alexander Bryant
Andrew Deutsch
Emily Dimmick
Kayleigh Fisher
Kyrah Gedroic
Zoey Gedroic
Archer Hunsicker
Tyler McNicholas
Bailee Neitz
Tommy Seager
Steven Schlenker
Jillian Sommer
Tyler Stocker



Newsletter Deadline

In order to save on postage, paper and time, you will be receiving the December/January newsletter in the end of November. This will include all activities for December and half of January.

You will be receiving the January/February newsletter in the middle of January and it will include the second half of January and all of February activities.

The articles for the December/January newsletter are due on November 11th.

The articles for the January/February newsletter are due on January 6th.



Church News



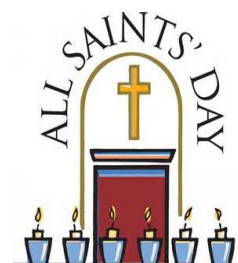
November 8:15 & 10:45 A.M. Worship Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Additional</u>
11-4	John 11:32-44	All Saint's Day
11-11	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17	Baptism, Bells, Jubilation Choir
11-18	1 Samuel 1:4-20	
11-25	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	

All Saints Day, November 4th

8:15AM and 10:45AM Worship Services

The annual All Saints Day service is on November 4th. At both services we will celebrate the lives of those who went on to life eternal from November 2017 to date. Join us in this celebration of eternal life and God's promises!



December 6th - Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. "Let It Go Service"

Our Annual "LET IT GO" SERVICE

For the last several years we have been offering a Let It Go worship service. It is a time of turning over to God the heavy things that weigh you down. It could be an old something or a new something. It could be pain from a relationship or a loss. We pray, we talk, we let it go! We are excited to announce that Madison Musselman is our featured soloist again this year. Mark your calendar!

Scrip Gift Card Orders -

Deadline to order cards is 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.

Gift Card Bingo

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

Tickets are now available. Cost of tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Call the church office 610-264-8421.

PNEC Fall Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Faith UCC, Hazelton
Theme: Transforming

The churches of Penn Northeast, UCC have been called to a Fall Annual meeting. A resolution is on the table about a new conference to be formed with Pennsylvania Southeast Conference among other agenda items. St. John's UCC, Fullerton will be at the meeting. Our delegates will be Pastors Becky Beckwith and Michelle Funk. Lay delegates are Kim Hillegass and Sharon Czekner. Our youth delegate is Melissa Mendiolina. They will be reporting about the meeting in upcoming newsletters.

Friendship Class:
Sacraments today - November 11th
9:30AM - Room 201

The recent Children & Communion class prompted some important discussions among adults about sacraments and how some things have changed. Pastor Becky is going to lead a discussion on sacraments in the Friendship Class. It is open to everyone and we hope you will come. Lots to talk about. Why don't you join us?

*Hospital Code for our
church - 473*

**The Men's Breakfast
Group**

The Men's group of St. John's 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 November 3rd
at 8:30AM.**



Breakfast

**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.

Thanksgiving Eve Community Service With St. John's UCC, Fullerton

On Wednesday, November 21ST we will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve service. This year we will again be co-leading with St John's UCC, Mickley's. Our choirs will join together under the leadership of Gail Hanzl and Chris Unger. Messages will be shared by a pastor from both churches. Brenda Ringer will be our soloist.

Please join in this very special evening. It is important that we stop and give God thanks often but maybe especially on "thanks" giving. Invite your neighbors and friends!



St. John's UCC, Fullerton Congregational Meeting w/ brunch November 25, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.

Congregational Meeting



The St. John's Congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 25th at 9:15 a.m. in Fox Hall. We will begin with a brunch that is being prepared by our 2018 Consistory. We will then be examining the proposed 2019 budget and then voting. We also will be given a slate of Consistory candidates. A letter will be sent to you with the budget and candidates at least two weeks before the meeting. Please put this important date on your calendar. Plan to be part of the important decisions of your church.

Whitehall Food Pantry

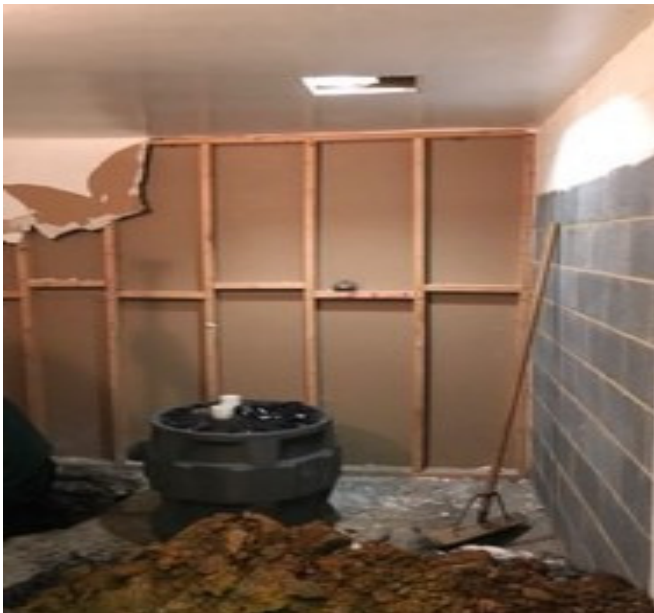
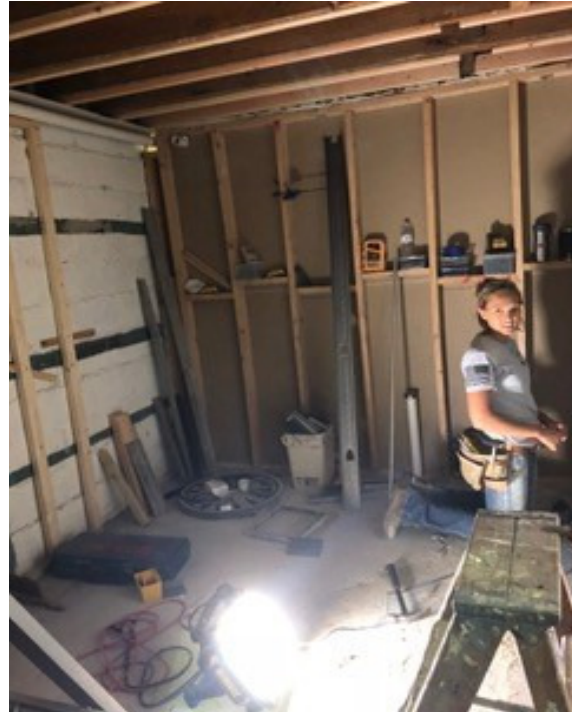
The Food Pantry is supplying a meal to its clients for Thanksgiving. **St. John's UCC, Fullerton's goal is to collect 130 cans of fruit cocktail towards their Thanksgiving meal.** Starting Sunday, October 28th and continuing for the next two weeks (November 4th and November 11th) we are collecting cans of fruit cocktail. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom off the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

Ironpigs Party
Porch for 2019
will be on Friday,
June 28th.

Capital Campaign has another success!

Make sure you go down into Fox Hall and see our new family - handicapped bathroom. A supply closet was turned into a state of the art facility. No more changing diapers on the stage!

Thank you for all who continue to support the endeavors of the Capital Campaign. Wonderful, useful changes are occurring!



Lady PEEPS



Our next Lady PEEPS meeting is not just about tomatoes, chili peppers, and cilantro! Join us on **Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201.** In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will be exploring the theme **“Jesus Makes**

Salsa by the Seashore” from a book by Troy Dungan. We’ll be talking about food from Jesus’ time and cooking up a heat wave of salsa creations of our own. It’ll be an evening of fellowship, giving thanks, sharing recipes, and cooking in Jesus’ name.



Filling Help Needed

On Saturday, November 17th at 9:00AM help is needed to peel potatoes and make the filling. We have a lot of potatoes to peel and we really need lots of hands. Come and join the fun and don’t forget to bring your peeler and knife!

Have You Moved?

Please let us know if you have moved. Send your change of address to our Office Administrator, Susan Kuder at stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com Or call the church office 610-264-8421.



The USPS cost for returned newsletters or offering envelopes is 92 cents per item that the church has to pay.

Crafty Crafters News

Lots to see! Lots to buy! Several new items! It’s an opportunity to do your Christmas shopping. There will be many seasonal items for you to purchase along with our cookbooks, soup mix, and our regular kitchen, household, and baby items. You’ll want to put these dates on your calendar:

- ❖ **Saturday, December 1 – Vendor Fair & Craft Show from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Sunday, December 2 – before and after both worship services**

You will find our craft tables in the lounge area by the sanctuary on both days. If, however, you need any items ahead of time, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or Ruthann Hallman at 610-434-0314. Remember, our crafts are for sale all year long.

Nut & Fruit Sale

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST
Deluxe Mixed Nuts	Pecans, cashews, pistachios, macadamias, almonds, hazelnuts, and Brazil nuts – no peanuts Roasted & gently salted; great source of vitamins & minerals	\$11.00/lb.
Fancy Pecan Halves	Contains more than 19 vitamins & minerals High in antioxidants; helps reduce risk of heart disease	\$11.00/lb.
Giant Whole Cashews	Roasted & gently salted Great source of iron; helps build healthy bones	\$11.00/lb.
Heart Healthy Nut Mix	Raw natural cashews and almonds, sweet dried cranberries, golden raisins, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds No sodium; no cholesterol	\$11.00/lb.
Mixed Chocolate Cranberries	Cranberries smothered in rich creamy milk, dark, and white chocolate; high in antioxidants	\$11.00/lb.
Tropical Blend	A tropical blend of macadamias, cashews, almonds, and cranberries. Loaded with sweet dried pineapple chunks.	\$11.00/lb.

Please see Carol Raszler or Tracey Glass before or after worship to make your purchases. Checks are to be made payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. The nuts and fruits should be arriving shortly—check your bulletin for updates.

You’ll need these items for Christmas baking or for Christmas gifts.

* * *



2019 Lehigh Valley Save-A-Round Books

These money-saving coupon books are here for you to purchase. With over \$5000 in savings, the books sell for \$25. You can save up to 50% on things you do every day. The books feature coupons and savings on:

- Fine & Casual Dining
- Fast Food & Carryout
- Shopping & Services
- Movie Tickets
- Activities & Attractions
- Gift Cards
- Hotels, Car Rentals, & Airlines
- Entertainment & Recreation

Books are valid from now until December 2019. See Tracey Glass before or after worship to make your purchase. Books are also available in the church office. Checks should be made payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton.

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

Do you have a spare turkey in your freezer?

During the holidays, many of you will win turkeys, get them as gifts, or earn them with the supermarket rewards program. **If you would like to donate your turkey to the soup makers for their pot pie sale, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 to make arrangements.**



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!!

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.

Reminder:

Daylight Saving Time
Ends on November 4



In Case of Bad Weather

If the church has to cancel its Sunday services due to inclement weather, we will list the closing on Channel 69 news or you can go to their website at www.wfmz.com



A Note from . . .

Our Stewardship and Finance Chairperson

How do you feel about all the choices you have to make throughout your day? From the time we wake till the time we fall asleep there are choices to be made. Some big, some small, some important, some not so much. It can be frustrating and confusing at times what are the right choices and I think sometimes we wish someone else would just decide for us. I am currently doing some interior painting at home and when I walked into Home Depot and saw all the color choices available I was more than happy to give the choice to my wife.

We recently had a member express some uncertainty about where they could give a little extra because it seemed as she read through the bulletin, the newsletter and listening to all the Sunday morning announcements there were so many areas of need. This member is right, there are many areas of need, but this raises a couple of questions. How many other members are grappling with this same issue and do we view this as a problem or an opportunity?

The first question, I really don't know the answer, but I'm hoping a lot of our members grapple with where to give and hopefully we are not getting frustrated by it. Just like the infinite number of colors GOD provides us so we can express a certain feel or cast a certain mood in a room, GOD, through St John's, is providing each one of us so many choices to give back what has been given to us so freely.

When considering where to give the S & F committee suggests first and foremost the General Fund always seems to need additional finances. Beyond that, keeping in mind GOD loves a cheerful giver, each one of us needs to pray about it, look at all the wonderful options GOD is offering you through St John's facilities and programs and choose something you are passionate about, something that will make you smile and be cheerful. If everyone does that we can let GOD handle the rest. Also keep in mind the various options to give your gifts, cash or check in the Sunday envelope, signing up for electronic giving, you can give to specific areas on St. John's website using debit or credit card or you can always reach out to myself or anyone on the S & F committee for guidance.

Although this member was specific about financial giving let's not forget the stewardship piece. GOD provides all of us with gifts and talents we can share, and GOD expects each one of us to do just that for the good of all. No matter what it is you do there is a place for you to give back some of that talent to GOD and St. John's. Reach out to myself or any other S & F committee member and discuss your talent and where you would like to fit in. There IS a place with your name on it.

Oh, by the way, the paint colors, my wife did a wonderful job choosing paint colors that look fabulous. I made the right choice by giving the choice to her!

Blessings,

Gary Madaus, Stewardship and Finance Chairperson
Stewardship and Finance Committee



November 2018 Music Notes

Thanksgiving—giving thanks. Not just on Thanksgiving Day but every day. Give thanks to God every day for all gifts, large or small, that God has given. Thanksgiving is a holiday that unites us because it isn't faith-specific; it belongs to everyone. St. John's and St. John's Mickleys, will gather on Thanksgiving Eve, November 21st, to sing and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. The 7:00 pm service is open to all faith groups. As people of faith, we can help bring this holiday that has become known for overeating and for signaling the shopping season back to a place of gratitude and grace.

Our hymns that evening will be traditional Thanksgiving hymns. "For the Beauty of the Earth" celebrates earth and harvest and is a prayer to the God who has made it all possible. This hymn was written by Folliot Sandford Pierpoint near his native city of Bath, England, around 1864. He found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for communion services in the Anglican church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associated with the American Thanksgiving holiday.



"For the Beauty of the earth" is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. Pierpoint not only wrote about creative blessings, but also recalled his social blessings—friends and home, those relationships that bring such enriching dimensions to our lives. Each of the blessings in Pierpoint's hymn is then directed to God with a "hymn of grateful praise."

Help fill the sanctuary Thanksgiving Eve and let your heart well up with emotion as we sing praise and thanks to God for everything.

Musically,
Gail



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.

Christian Education and Youth

Friendship Sunday – Sunday, November 11th

We will be hosting a Friendship Day on Sunday, November 11th during the Faith Formation hour! All KidZ JAM & Youth Classes and teachers will be welcoming friends and enjoying a class together!

Bring a friend with you to your class and share a time of Faith & Fun together! Friends are always welcome, but this is a special day of sharing!

Advent Kick Off - Sunday, December 2nd 9:30 am – 10:30 am A family event! Kick off the Advent Season with us!

On Sunday, December 2nd families will enjoy snacks in Fox Hall and create “Advent in a Box” kits. These kits will be taken home to be used as we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus this advent season.

We may even have a surprise guest join us! You won’t want to miss this!

PNEC Sleepout for Homelessness!

8 youth participated in the PNEC Sleepout for homelessness. The Youth raised money for the Synergy Project of Valley Youth House. They learned a lot about homelessness and participated in various simulation activities.



Month Of Thanks!

The KidZ JAM classes are busy making a small craft for the congregation! Make sure to look for your token of appreciation from the KidZ JAM classes after worship on Sunday, November 18th!

Rally Day

We had a great kick off to our faith formation year! It isn't too late to join us for a class! Classes for ages 3 to adult! 9:30 am – 10:30 am Sunday mornings.



Vendor Fair/Craft Show - Saturday, December 1st, 9am - 2pm

Lots of Vendors & Crafters! Shop til you drop!

Chinese Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Bake Sale & more! Proceeds Support St. John's UCC Youth Groups

Event will be held indoors! Vendors include Makeup, Kitchenware, Jewelry, Food, Bags, Skincare, many other vendors and lots of homemade crafters! Check out St. John's facebook page for the latest list of vendors!

Sign up for Text message reminders!

We will be sending group text messages for Youth Groups and Confirmation. Text 81010 to the corresponding groups that you are a part of to receive news, events and announcements throughout the year. You can always opt out and unsubscribe at any time.

Middle School Youth and Parents: Text @MELTMYG to 81010

High School Youth and Parents: Text @MELTSR to 81010

Mini & JR Youth and Parents: Text @MELTMJYG to 81010

Confirmands and Parents: Text @stjsconf to 81010

Faith Formation & Youth Group offerings

We will collect offering at all of our faith formation classes and youth group meetings. It is important for our Children and Teens to learn that all we have is a gift from God, as Christians we need to remember to give some of God's blessings back with joyful gratitude. Offerings received in Faith formation and youth group directly benefit our Faith Formation and Youth Ministries.

Real Potato Filling Sale -

\$7.00 for a two pound container ~

All orders and payment must be received by
November 4, 2018.

PLEASE PAY WHEN ORDERING - NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED

Dates for pick up: Saturday, November 17th and Sunday,
November 18th

Please complete this order form and place in the offering
place along with your payment or call the church office at
610-264-8421

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Containers @ \$7.00 each _____

Amount Due _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Check one:

Pick up Saturday 3-4:30PM _____

Pick up Sunday (after both services) _____



Call Cheryl Weaver - 610-443-0161 or Ruthann Hallman
610-434-0314 with any questions

2018 Poinsettia Order

You will once again be able to order poinsettias to beautify the
sanctuary at the Christmas season. Please complete the order form
below and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office
with your money included.

Deadline to order is Sunday, December 9th.

The plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on
Sunday, December 23rd and also at the Christmas
Eve Services.



The cost of a poinsettia plant is \$8.00.

Red poinsettia(s) _____ @ \$8.00 each = _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Phone No. _____

In memory of _____

BY _____

In honor of _____

BY _____

*Please mark which service on Christmas Eve you will be taking
your plant*

6:00PM _____ 9:00PM _____

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.



Pete Mohr

I'm married to Regina (Regi) and have 2 sons, Daniel and Ryan. I've lived in Whitehall most of my life. I enjoy bicycling, motorcycling, camping and woodworking.



Paul Raszler

I was born in Austria and came to America in 1950 with my parents when I was 5 years old. I served with the U.S. Army and in Vietnam. After 31 years as Territory and District Manager, I retired from Ecolab, Inc. and now work part-time for two catering companies. My wife, Carol and I are married for 49 years and have two sons, Michael and Josef. Upon transferring from Dubbs Memorial UCC, I joined the Friendship Bible Class, Adult Choir, Consistory and Personnel Committee at St. John's. My hobbies include model railroading, collecting Pez Candy dispensers, and spending time at our cabin.



Dewey Yeatts

I was born and raised in Southern Virginia, then attended college in North Carolina where I met my wife, DonnaLee. We then moved to the Lehigh Valley. DonnaLee attended St. John's since she was little so when we returned to the Lehigh Valley I joined St. John's UCC. St. John's is a welcoming congregation. I work for an Insurance Company. We enjoy traveling to Disney World. . . a lot!!

Mission Moment

Mitten Tree Project

The Mission Committee is happy to announce that we are again conducting our Mitten Tree Project for the Christmas season. This year we will be collecting items for the following organizations:



Phoebe Ministries

Founded in 1903 and affiliated with the UCC, Phoebe Ministries is a multi-facility organization specializing in healthcare, housing and support services to **seniors**. It is guided by its mission to provide compassionate care to residents of its community regardless of their ability to pay.

Valley Youth House

It began in 1973 as a single shelter in the Lehigh Valley for homeless young people and has grown to over 250 residential sites throughout Pennsylvania. Its mission is to help all **youth**, including the most vulnerable, who have been abused, have run away, or are homeless. Valley Youth House helps them build a healthy and independent future.

Here's How You Can Help Spread Christmas Cheer:


The Mitten Tree will be on display shortly in the rear of the sanctuary.

You can select a name and purchase a gift as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Red Mitten – Valley Youth House | • Green Mitten – Phoebe Ministries |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Take the top mitten for yourself. Fill out the information on the rear mitten and place it in the gold box.

The gifts need to be wrapped and the person's name must be securely attached to each package (optional to include your name). All gift cards need to be either put in a box or in a gift bag so they don't get lost.

 **We Need New Mittens, Gloves and Hats.** A separate tree will be on display for you to bring in donations of new mittens, gloves or hats—for adults and children, men and women, girls and boys. Please do not wrap them but just hang them on the tree. With the cold winter weather approaching, many needy individuals are without these things to keep warm. All items will be distributed to various organizations within the community for their clients and guests.

Deadline to Receive All Gifts is Sunday, December 9.

Mission Moment - Continued

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

Our first time to prepare a meal for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry will be on Friday, November 30, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at Zion UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown. This ministry is to provide breakfasts for the homeless, working poor, or anyone in need of food. St. John's will be hosting the Jubilee Breakfasts the last Friday of every month from November 2018 through April 2019. **The team is now forming and anyone who is interested MUST contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or at nancydough@msn.com.**

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of November, donations are needed for the following: **white rice, pancake syrup, canned soups (not tomato) and instant mashed potatoes.** The Food Pantry is also supplying a meal to its clients for Thanksgiving. **St. John's goal is to collect 130 cans of fruit cocktail towards that Thanksgiving meal.** A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items can always be made at any time throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed monetarily to the Food Pantry from the special offering envelopes that were placed in the bulletin on September 30. A total of **\$376** was received.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

✠ **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. One-third of the offering supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. A special offering envelope was in September's newsletter and in the bulletin on October 7. A final tally will be in the next newsletter.

✠ **CROP Walk** – The CROP Walk was held on Sunday, October 14. As we go to press, the sponsors for our several walkers have donated over \$600. A quarter of the total proceeds stay right here in the area shared between the Lehigh Conference of Churches' Ecumenical Soup Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. A final tally will be in the next newsletter.

How did our St. John's Family do?

Recent Outreaches	September	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,379.00	\$13,588.88
Neighbors in Need	\$ 131.60	\$ 151.50
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 376.00	\$ 1,139.00

PNEC & PSEC Sponsoring Mission Trips to Puerto Rico

In the year since Hurricane Maria decimated Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, the UCC has accompanied the people of this U.S. territory in their journey toward recovery. The Category 4 hurricane took down power lines and grids, disrupted the country's water supply, crippled communication systems, wiped out entire neighborhoods, damaged countless homes, and nearly 3,000 people died as a result. The UCC Disaster Ministries has invested almost \$500,000 so far in the rebuilding effort and coordinated the scheduling and management of scores of local church volunteers from across the country.

Through the joint efforts of both Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences, two Mission Trips to Puerto Rico are planned in 2019—April 28 to May 4 and May 12 to May 18. The cost will not exceed \$1000 per person, including all costs for transportation, food, lodging, supplies, etc. **Registration details will be released soon with a deadline of November 15 and a deposit of \$50 (check payable to PNEC).**

There is much to be done in the rebuilding efforts, including among other things roof and home repairs and working on the food supply since the storm wiped out 80% of the crops. If you would like more information and/or thinking of becoming part of this Disaster Relief Team, you can contact Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez at gilbertor@pniec or Karl Jones at kjones275@comcast.net or call the PNEC office at 610-826-3113. **The next planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Greenawalds UCC, 2325 Albright Ave., Allentown.**

With the valent efforts of our local volunteers coming together to help this disaster-stricken area, St. John's has answered the call to assist them financially in their endeavor. **The Mission Committee has designated that any profit from our 2018 sales by our Crafters Group be given the PNEC & PSEC Disaster Relief Team to Puerto Rico.** We wish them "God Speed" as they work to help restore the lives of the Puerto Rican people.



Shingles and Chickenpox virus



Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash. Although shingles can occur anywhere on your body, it most often appears as a single stripe of blisters that wraps around either the left or the right side of your torso.

Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus — the same virus that causes chickenpox. After you've had chickenpox, the virus lies inactive in nerve tissue near your spinal cord and brain. Years later, the virus may reactivate as shingles. While it isn't a life-threatening condition, shingles can be very painful. Symptoms can include itching, rash, blisters, numbness, tingling, fever, headache, and fatigue. If you seek medical help in the first 72 hours, a physician will prescribe antiviral and pain medication that will decrease the symptoms, shorten the illness, and prevent complications. Sometimes the shingles rash occurs around one eye or on one side of the neck or face. If the pain and rash occur near an eye promptly contact a doctor to prevent permanent eye damage. Also seek medical help if 60 or older, have a weakened immune system, or a very large painful rash. The shingles virus can be transferred to other individuals by contacting the blisters. If someone touches the blisters and does not have immunity against varicella-zoster, the person can get the chickenpox. The biggest problem with shingles is postherpetic neuralgia or nerve pain that can last days, weeks, or even years after the infection. It is important for pediatric patients to get vaccinated against the virus to prevent chickenpox, and it is also important that older adults get vaccinated for shingles.

Vaccines can help reduce the risk of shingles. The risk of shingles increases as you get older, and the CDC recommends that healthy adults 50 years and older get two doses of the shingles vaccine called Shingrix (recombinant zoster vaccine), separated by 2 to 6 months. Studies have shown that Shingrix is much more effective in preventing shingles than the older Zostavax vaccine. Over many years patients that received the Zostavax vaccine were not as protected from getting shingles. Zostavax is available as an alternative if allergic to Shingrix. The CDC recommends two doses of chickenpox vaccine Varivax for children, adolescents, and adults. Children should receive two doses of the vaccine—the first dose at 12 through 15 months old and a second dose at 4 through 6 years old.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly support protecting children with recommended vaccinations. Vaccines prevent children and adults from getting many diseases. Vaccination also helps the many people in society who can't get vaccinated that could get exposed to the disease like cancer patients. If one day all of the children get vaccinated for chickenpox, there may be a day that no one gets shingles or the bad complications from the virus.

Ellen Sagazio, RPh

November 8:15am and 10:45am Worship Services Information

November 4th Scripture: John 11:32-44 All Saints Day

Hymns: *Forward through the Ages *Faith of the Martyrs *For All the Saints

8:15AM

Elders: Marion DeMilio and Connie Viglione

Ushers: Tim Silfies, Lori Silfies, Kenda Catalini, John Viglione, Colleen Kulhamer, Beth Neitz, Charlie Apple, Linda Apple

Acolyte: Alex Bryant STARs Tech: Joe Trippett

10:45AM

Elders: Sally Gibson, Doris Smith

Ushers: Bob Czekner, Sharon Czekner, Pete Mohr, Ruthann Hallman, Colleen Kulhamer, Kim Hillegass Wendy Fox, Wayne Lichtenwalner

Scripture Reader: Nicole Perez Acolyte: Kyrah Gedroic

STARs Tech: Don Schneck

November 11th Scripture: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Hymns: *This Is a Day of New Beginnings *Woman in the Night *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

8:15AM

Ushers – Marion DeMilio, Linda Smith, LeDonne Wagstaff, Sandra Nagy

Scripture Reader: Linda Smith Acolyte: Andrew Deutsch

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Ushers - Cathy Kuhns, Staci Pagan, Jesus, Pagan, Kaylee Pagan

Scripture Reader: Corrina Schneck Acolyte: Tyler McNicholas

STARs Tech: Nicole Perez

November 18th Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Hymns: *My Soul Gives Glory to My God *Great Is Your Faithfulness *When the Poor Ones

8:15AM

Ushers: Sandra Nagy, Judy Miranda, Mike Gravely, Barbara Seeds

Scripture Reader: Mike Gravely Acolyte: Kayleigh Fisher

STARs Tech: Joe Trippett

10:45AM

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner, Sally Gibson

Scripture Reader: Linda Powell Acolyte: Bailee Neitz

STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts

November 21st Thanksgiving Eve Service

Hymns: *Come, O Thankful People, Come *For the Beauty of the Earth *Sent Forth by God's Blessing

November 25th Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Christ the King Sunday

Hymns: *All Things Are Yours! *Take My Gifts *How Can I Say Thanks

8:15AM

Ushers: Janet Ebert, Jim Ebert, Judy Miranda, Carole O'Connell

Scripture Reader: Janet Ebert Acolyte: Tommy Saeger

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer

10:45AM

Ushers: Carol Myers, Karly Myers

Scripture Reader: Melissa Mendiolina Acolyte: Jillian Sommer

STARs Tech: Corinna Schneck



Altar Guild: 8:15AM – Beth Erney & Judy Miranda

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
stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com

Mrs. Emilie Moyer, Pianist

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

Mrs. Susan Weldner, Treasurer
sbweldner@gmail.com

Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Emilie Moyer,
Financial Secretaries
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Mr. Donald Schneck, I.T. Tech
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Mr. Gary Weaver,
Coordinating Custodian
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

Two Worship Services –
8:15AM and 10:45AM
Faith Formation Classes – 9:30AM