



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

December 2018/January 2019



**December 2018
January 2019
Vol. 11 Issue 12**

"Our Church Connection"

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Dear Friends,

When is enough, enough? ENOUGH! I wonder how much of something we can take before we finally say, "that's it! I'm done! This isn't happening anymore!!!"

I feel that way sometimes when I go into a store and find myself being thrown into the future. Santa is in the mall immediately following Halloween and the Christmas decorations are all up and twinkling. I suddenly feel my body go into a panic. Christmas! I didn't get any lists going yet. Who wants what? How much do we have to spend this year – I know it won't be enough. And I do want to get perfect presents for the grandkids. My anxiety starts rising and my stress level is off the charts about Christmas and I haven't even had Thanksgiving turkey yet. And seriously?... are those Valentines in a store window? Enough!

What's the rush? Will we spend more if we rush? Will our gifts be appreciated more if we stress out over them? We all may know that this is foolish yet we try so hard year after year to make for an early, perfect holiday. This year it got me to thinking, what *are* the Christmas' did I remember the most and why?

Brad was almost two. He loved the lights and decorations. Christmas morning he had a pile of gifts to open. The first one he tackled contained a telephone. He held it up and said, "Tet-a-phone! Tet-a-phone!" He loved his new telephone. He loved it so much he refused to open any more gifts! All day he played with a \$3.00 tet-a-phone! The expensive gifts lay unopened.

Jill was about 8 when she rushed into our family room to see what was beneath the tree. She gazed over the presents and then spotted a guinea pig in a cage. She literally gasped. Then said, "Brad, look what you got!" As she got closer to the guinea pig she realized that it was her name on the cage. Jill burst into happy tears – and so did I.

Life is meant to be cherished, each and every day. If we allow ourselves to be rushed from one season to the next, we miss out on what is happening right in our midst.

My Mom won a beautiful ceramic Nativity set and gave it to me. Each year Brad, Jill, Bob and I would carefully unwrap each piece. We would talk about the Shepherds and the Wisemen. The animals would each gently be placed. When we came to Mary and Joseph we would ouuu and awww. Finally, Jesus, the baby in his manger would be set in a special place. I loved setting up that Nativity with our children. Now we are setting it up each year with our grandchildren.

So what is the rush? Why do we push from one season to the next without taking time to enjoy? We may not have any control over the department stores that push the season but we do have control over how we respond. I hope and pray you find time to slow down the Advent and Christmas season. I pray you say, "Enough," to what isn't important.

May your Advent be filled with wonder (and lots of happy ending Hallmark movies!). May your Christmas be joyous and include a child. And... may your New Year be glorious.

Blessings! See you in Church!

Betsy

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

Jimmy B.

Boys

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM.

I am God's child. (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend. (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord. (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth. (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation. (Rom. 8:1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant. (Phil. 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me. (Rom. 8:31-34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the Heavenly realms. (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God. (Rom. 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God. (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good. (Rom. 8:28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Eph. 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:13)

I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. (John 15:1-5)

I am God's temple. (1 Cor. 3:16) I am complete with Christ. (Col. 2:10)

I am hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:3) I have been justified. (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker. (1 Cor. 3:9, 2 Cor. 6:1) I am God's workmanship. (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1:5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven. (Col. 1:14) I have been adopted as God's child. (Eph.

1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are?

Donald

Dan

amc

Kinda

Lay

Paul

Susan

Michelle

Michelle

Pete M.

Christy

Mike G.

Due

Don

Paul

Tom M.

Bob D.

Wendy

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season from the entire Consistory and Staff at St. John's!

Kim

Becky

Ted

Melissa Mendiolina

Emilie

Sharon

Thank You!!!

Pastor Becky,

Thank you for the wonderful caring service you gave my sister, Betty. Everyone I talked to remarked how you presented the service. You are a very special caring lady and I am so glad I joined St. John's UCC. I felt at home the first time I attended. It was like going to Dubbs UCC again.

God Bless you,
Jeanne Fischl

Thank you to The Youth and Adult Empowerment (YEA) Fund Team of Penn Northeast Conference for giving the Youth a grant towards their Philadelphia Mission Trip.

From the Grace UCC Youth who attended the Sleepout for Homeless event held on September 29 & 30 at Forks UCC...

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for helping us learn about God and the homeless. Also, thank you for being there and watching us over the night. We really appreciate all that you did for us.



Thank you to FunRaising Committee members Kevin and Barbara Hoderman for the awesome trip that was planned to the American Music Theater Christmas show.

God Bless You!



thanks a bunch

Pastor Becky,

Thank you for your visits and the prayer shawl. It is on my walker with me all the time. The person who made this shawl did a beautiful job!

Thanks again,
Eleanor Smith



Dear Pastor Becky, Pastor Quinn and all the wonderful members of St. John's,

Since I was a member of Dubbs UCC, I was accepted by the great people of St. John's. The first thing I received was a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church by Pastor Quinn. The next thing I received was a light blue prayer shawl which is gorgeous! I really love it. I got many visits from Pastor Quinn which were very comforting at the hospitals, the nursing home and my home. He checks up on me and reports back to Pastor Becky and the church. I've also kept in touch with my name listed in the church bulletin Sunday mornings. I thank Pastor Becky who was responsible for all the cards I received for my birthday. I got over 20 cards which brought up my spirits even though I don't know if I will ever walk again. I'm hoping and praying that it will happen.

I thank all of you for your wishes for me to work and God provides the miracle. It will happen. I also have to thank Joan and Bob for all the cards I received – about 25. I hope to get better so I can come back to church sometime soon.

Love to All,
Sandra Diefenderfer

Our Church Family



Baptisms

Mona Sophia Deigert was baptized on October 28th at the 10:45AM worship service. Her parents are Kerri and Eric Deigert.

Henry Kenneth Wechsler was baptized on November 11th at the 10:45AM worship service. His parents are Jenna and Daniel Wechsler. Susan (our Office Administrator) and Rocky Kuder are Henry's grandparents.

Upcoming Baptisms

11/25 – 10:45AM – Lucas Weidner

12/9 – 8:15AM – Bailey Kulhamer

1/20/2019 – 10:45AM - Ella Marino

1/27/2019 – 10:45AM – Zoey Chambers

Wedding

12-8 - Nicole Perez & John Williams

2 -2-2019

Jodi Williams & Jennifer Snyder

Renewal of Vows

On November 10th at the Fullerton Fire Company **Linda and Tom Germuga** renewed their wedding vows after 50 years of marriage!

Congratulations!

Christopher Brown earned his Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Physics in July from Drexel University.

His Ph.D. dissertation was The Flow of Sickle Blood Through Glass Capillaries and Its Diagnostic Implications. Christopher earned his Master Degree in Physics also from Drexel University in 2014.

He earned his undergrad degree from Franklin and Marshall College in 2012. Christopher is continuing in the academic world, currently teaching as an assisting professor in the Physics department at Villanova University.

Christopher and his wife Jennifer reside in Philadelphia. He is the son of Donna and David Brown, the brother of Tyler Brown and the grandson of Marion Brown.

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

Change of Address:

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Miller
Ian and Elle
3116 Route 309
Orefield, PA 18069-2409



Mr. Brent Nailor
4250 Sanders VW Apt. 201
Colorado Springs, CO 80916-6304

Ms. Evelyn Zakravsky
2646 High Hill Road
Slatington, PA 18080-3363

Ms. Roberta Haberern
United Zion Retirement Community
722 Furnace Hills Pike
Lititz, PA 17543-7954

New Members

We are offering a new members class on Sunday, December 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Becky's office. The new members will be joining on December 9th. Please let the pastors or office know if you are interested in joining with St. John's.



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.

Deaths

Robert Scheland died on October 20th. His Celebration of Life service was held on October 29th. He is survived by his companion, Linda, daughter, Tina, sons Robert and Steve, and grandchildren.

Nancy Pancottine died on October 25th. Nancy is survived by her son, William and grandson. Her Celebration of Life service was held on November 2nd.

Delphine Peters died on October 27th. Her Celebration of Life service was held on October 31st. She is survived by her son, Randal, daughter, Pamela, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

December Anniversaries

December 11 -
Anne Welsh & Joseph Trippett – 8 years

December 17 –
Cheryl & Gary Weaver – 13 years

December 18 –
Amanda & Eric Thompson – 14 years
Melissa & Chad Eberhart – 8 years

December 20 –
Natalee & Joel Kilpatrick – 10 years

December 21 –
Melanie & Edward Eckert – 6 years

December 22 –
Barbara Thomas & Eugene Gallagher -28 years

December 28 –
Patricia & Gerald Yanavok – 7 years

December 29 –
Regina & Peter Mohr – 34 years

December 31 –
Barbara & Kevin Hoderman – 8 years

Happy Anniversary

Miller-Keystone
Blood Center
Our Code – 0872

January Anniversaries

January 1 –
Dianne & Edward Wilson – 3 years

January 24 –
Carole & Dennis O’Connell – 49 years

January 27 –
Shelby & Brent Nailor – 7 years

January 30 –
Doris & Ronald Smith – 48 years



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
January/February newsletter
are due on January 6th.*

Christmas Cards to Our Shut Ins

Please wish these members who are shut-ins or in assisted living a “Merry Christmas” by sending them a Christmas card.



CEDARBROOK, ALLENTOWN

350 S. Cedarbrook Road, Allentown 18104

*Theresa Kuhns ~ Rm 721A

*Virginia Owens – D323B

EASTON NURSING CENTER

498 Washington St., Easton 18042

*Henry Moll ~ Room 230

FELLOWSHIP MANOR

3000 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall 18052

*Faye Baylor ~ Room 64A

*Barry Everett ~ Room 325

*Betty Moll ~ Rm 306

*June Pope ~ Rm 104B

*Jean Roberts ~ Rm 230

*Sara Siegfried – Room 126A

*June Tomb – Room 119

*Bill Wasley – Room 127A

GREENFIELD SENIOR LIVING

1415 St. Francis Road, Bel Air, MD 21014

*Frank Nolt – Room #5

PHOEBE HOME

1925 W. Turner Street, Allentown 18104

*Ray Lane ~ Room 107A

*Anna Walbert ~ Room 211 – Miller Bldg.

UNITED ZION RETIREMENT

COMMUNITY

722 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

*Roberta Haberern

WHITEHALL MANOR

1177 6th Street, Whitehall 18052

*Anita Beil ~ C106

*Annamae Folk – C85

*Ken Schneck ~ Room A23

HOMEBOUND

*Sandra Diefenderfer ~ 1111 Myrtle Rd., Walnutport, 18088

*Donald Downing ~ 720 N. 27th St., Allentown, 18104

*Ruth Eli ~ 1455 Jefferson Street, Allentown, 18103

*Fae Erney ~ 2574 Halleck Dr., Whitehall, 18052

*Doris Guldner ~ Manor Care, Rm 152, 2021 Westgate Dr, 18017

*Sylvia Hafer ~ 2574 Halleck Dr., Whitehall, 18052

*Harry Houser ~ 3062 Eisenhower Dr., Northampton, 18067

*Muriel Kloiber ~ 861 Sixth Street, Whitehall, 18052

*Janet Miller ~ 616 N. Law St., Allentown, 18102

*Thomas Miller ~ 3005 East Boulevard, Apt. 5,
Bethlehem, 18017

*Carol Olson ~ 1400 Main St., Apt. 202, Catasauqua, 18032

*Marietta Seyfried ~ 1210 Broad Street, Apt. 5,
Whitehall, 18052

*Donald & Bert Smith ~ 3114 N. 5th St., Whitehall, 18052

*Eleanor Smith ~ Robinwood Village, 407 Manchester Rd.,
Saylorsburg, 18353

*Ethel Weiland ~ 7566 Molasses Barrel Rd., Slatington, 18080

*Ruth Wittman ~ 2339 S. Lumber St., Allentown, 18103

OUT OF TOWN

*Marie Fatzinger ~ Providence Place, 2200 1st Avenue, #346,
Pottsville, PA 17901

*Peggy Snyder ~ Providence Place, 2200 1st Avenue
Pottsville, PA 17901

Church News



December Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45AM Services Advent Theme: Symbols of the Season

Each week during Advent we will be lifting up a different symbol of the season. Preparing for the coming of the Christ child was filled with important and meaningful signs. We will be remembering some of them this year.

12-2 Scripture – Luke 21:25-36

“TRUMPET” - The sounds of the trumpet will be featured at both services. Austin Sommer, who plays trumpet for Whitehall’s Award Winning Band, will be at both services adding the sounds of brass and bringing in the season.



12-9 Scripture - Luke 1:67-79

New members joining/8:15AM Kulhamer baptism

“STAR” - A star hung in the sky that spoke loudly to the world. Join us to see how a star will be speaking to St. John’s

12-16 Scriptures – Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

“BELLS” - If we are lifting up the importance of bells then of course our St. John’s Bell Choir will play! Our Liturgical dancers *Reflections* will also be dancing!

12-23 - (8:15AM) Scripture – Psalm 95:1-7

8:15AM **“MANGER”** Christmas Carols and Stories around the Manger

10:45AM - Christmas Pageant as part of worship

First Sunday After Christmas

12-30 9:30AM (One Service) Scripture – Luke 2:41-52

January Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 Services

January 6 Matthew 2:1-12 “Pay It Forward”/Epiphany

January 13 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 John 2:1-11

January 27 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

December 6th - Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. 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!

Live Nativity at St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Please join us on **Saturday evening, December 15th** as we celebrate the birth of Jesus during our live re-enactment of the Nativity. The first performance will begin at 6:00pm with a repeat performance at 7:00pm. Pick the time that suits your schedule the best, or come and stay for both.



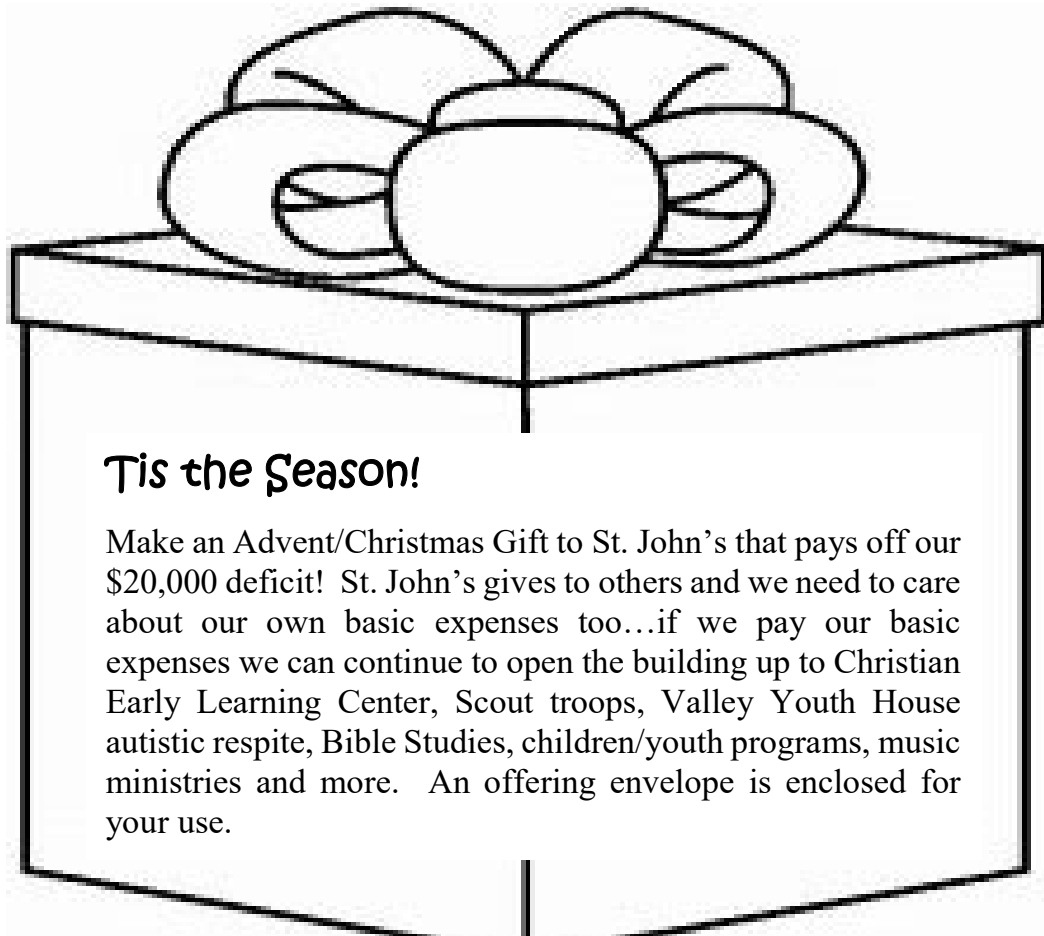
The Nativity will take place on the church lawn. We will have live animals available which will be part of a petting zoo in between the two performances. After each Nativity, you are invited to join everyone in Fox Hall for refreshments and children's crafts.

We would appreciate any donations of baked goods to be used as refreshments that evening. If you are able to bake, please contact Kenda Catalini. Also, we could use additional people to help inside on the day of the event for set up, run refreshments, and tear down. If you would like to help with this event in any way, please see Noreen Miller or Pastor Becky.



2018 Christmas Eve Services December 24th 6:00 P.M. & 9:00 P.M. "The Power Of A Child"

Please join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the coming of a child, the Christ child. Both of our services will include candle lighting and lots of music. The children and youth will be singing at the 6:00 p.m. service. The 9:00 p.m. will include adult choirs and Holy Communion. Both services will focus on "The Power of a Child."



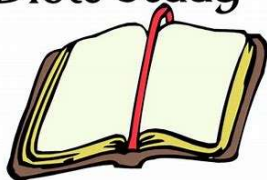
Advent Bible Studies

Please join the Pastors for Advent Bible Studies. Pastors Becky, Michelle and Dave will each be leading a week.

The time is Thursday mornings December 6th, 13th and 20th. The study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m.

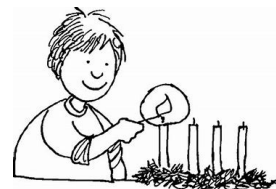
Anyone interested can head to City Vu Diner for lunch together. Watch the bulletins for more details.

Bible Study



Advent Candle Lighters

This year our consistory members and their families will be lighting the weekly Advent wreath during worship. It will be another opportunity for us to see our leaders in action. Thank you again to our Consistory members and all that they do at St. John's.



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 was on the table about a new conference to be formed with Pennsylvania Southeast Conference among other agenda items. PNEC voted Yes to moving forward with the new conference process. On November 10, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference voted No to the one conference resolution.

St. John's UCC, Fullerton was honored as one of the PNEC "Five for Five" congregations. That means that we participate in giving to the five UCC yearly mission requests. St. John's staff was featured in a video about our OCWM giving and why we think OCWM is important. You can see the video on our website.

St. John's was also featured as one of six "Open & Accepting" congregations. This is a status we obtain in 2018. Our delegates were Pastors Becky Beckwith and Michelle Funk. Lay delegates are Kim Hillegass and Sharon Czekner.

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Annual Meeting

With Brunch

November 25, 2018

At 9:15 A.M.

The St. John's Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 25 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 voting. We also will be given a slate of Consistory candidates. The slate includes the following: Elder: Marion DeMilio, Deacons: Robert Bold, Noreen Miller, Anne Welsh. Youth Deacon: Eireann Hunsicker. Please put this important date on your calendar. Plan to be part of the important decisions of your church.

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

PNEC News!

Monday, November 12, 2018

Dear Friends,

For many people in our conference, we have spent the last number of years developing relationships with our southern neighbors in Pennsylvania Southeast. We began to develop relationships through invitations to meetings, events, and educational opportunities such as annual meetings, clergy convocation, ministry days, and more. In 2016, we began a formal discernment process by approving a transition team to help us discern whether we were being led into a merger process. For the past two years (2017-2018), the Joint Conference Visioning and Development Team has been charged with discerning God's vision and calling for the churches of Eastern Pennsylvania. Team members from the north and south worked faithfully in this discernment process.

The JCVDT held team meetings, interviewed staff, planned a joint retreat for the PNEC Board and PSEC Consistory, held a workshop for Committees on Ministry, and more. Together, we believed God was leading our Conferences to develop something new, a new way of living into ministry and relationships as a Conference of the United Church of Christ.



On Saturday, November 3rd, our conference voted by an overwhelming majority to move forward in the process of developing this new vision. This was the next step in the discernment process.

On Saturday, November 10th, the PSEC voted against the motion. There was a majority in favor of moving ahead. However, the body was divided, and there was not a 2/3 majority to move ahead in our work.

At this time, we will continue to discern where God is leading us. We have done incredible work together as a conference over the past three years. We have developed new structures to encourage new ministries. Our Committee on Ministry has restructured to be more creative and accountable in its work. We have revised our Constitution and Bylaws to help us become more nimble in our governance. We have a new vitality team to help connect and support our local churches. All of this work has been done through the presence of the Spirit encouraging us and strengthening us as the Body of Christ. Together, in relationship with God and one another, we are experiencing a renewal of the Spirit!

The Conference Board will continue to cast a vision for us in the Penn Northeast Conference to be bold and courageous in following God's call. We will be compassionate and caring in supporting the work of our local churches and pastors. In all things, we will be led by the Spirit to discover what God is calling us to next.

Faithfully,

Joanne Marchetto, Conference Board Moderator

Doug Taylor, Conference Board Assistant Moderator



Consistory Retreat

The 2019 Consistory will begin their time together on January 12th at Pastor Becky's house for our annual Consistory retreat. Your consistory works hard to get to know each other, understand each other's journey and find ways we can work to serve God and our family of faith. Please pray for the consistory and our staff as they lead us this year.

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 December 1st at 8:30AM.
January's meeting will be January 5th at 8:30AM.



Breakfast

No More Holy Communion Cards? Now It's A Holy Communion Sign-In Book!

What is with the Communion Cards? The question gets asked. Why do we use them since they fall out of our bulletins? They frequently are not filled out by our members. The cards are costly and our local vender is no longer in business. So, what is with the cards anyway?

The communion cards are meant as a way to keep track of who takes Holy Communion and how often. Cards are filled out and put into alphabetical order and then entered into our data base. It is a time consuming and messy process. At the recommendation of the Worship & Music Committee and the Spiritual Council, we have decided to do away with the cards.

Since our Constitution and Bylaws speaks of membership taking communion on a regular basis, we do need to replace the cards with something else. We decided on a Holy Communion Book. The book will be in the rear of the sanctuary. You are asked to sign it if you participated in the sacrament. You need only sign it one time per year. The book will be alphabetical according to your last name.

The end of the Holy Communion cards means cost and environmental savings. Please participate often in the sacrament and make sure you sign the book at least one time during 2019. We begin January 6th.

Visitation Committee Reminder

In December the Visitation Committee will meet one week earlier than usual on December 4th at 10:30AM.

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

Cheesecakes are Back Just in Time for the Holidays

Once again **Andie Dallago** is making her scrumptious homemade cheesecakes for sale on **Sunday, December 16**. At a cost of \$10.00 for an 8" cheesecake (they freeze well), you can select the following:

- ★ **Mudslide Cheesecake**
- ★ **Cinnamon Bun Cheesecake**



Look for a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or you can call Andie at 610-504-6598. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 9.**

Wine & Word

January 24th

6:30-8:00PM

Beckwith Home

Our second "Wine and Word" is scheduled and we hope you will be joining us. We are looking for 20-25 individuals who are willing to enjoy a glass of wine (or not- soda, water also available) and be open to discussion on the word "Rejoice".



The last gathering was so well accepted we hope to have this program as a quarterly event.

Please call the church office to register or in the sign-up sheet in the back of the church.



Lady PEEPS Invites You! Come and Share the Holiday Spirit with Us...

On **Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be meeting in **Fox Hall** for an evening of Christmas fun. We will be viewing a special short Christmas video called "The Spirit of Christmas," sharing moments from Christmas's past, playing some reindeer games, enjoying some Christmas treats and exchanging gifts. Come join us and find the spirit of Christmas with these extraordinary St. John's ladies.



And Then Learn How to Relax After the Hectic Holidays....

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will welcome in the New Year with the theme "Meditation and Prayer." On **Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in **Room 201**, we will welcome guest speakers **Heidi Baer** and **Kathy Haggerty**, who will speak to us about their own experiences with meditation. We will also discuss the power of prayer and take a prayer walk inside the sanctuary. Come warm your hearts and join us for a special evening.



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.**

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject racism.**

Fight for the powerless

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this Life.

The theme for St. John's UCC, Fullerton for 2019 is "Be The Church." We will be explaining more during the upcoming months but the idea is that each of us must Be The Church. This occurs when we are together but we also go into the world where we must Be The Church. How will you Be The Church this year? How will God make a difference through the willingness of each member at St. John's. Start visioning on how each of us can embrace this Be the Church movement.

A Word About Our Soup and Bake Sales...

Because of the busy-ness of the Christmas holidays and the uncertainty of the winter weather, soup and bake sales won't resume until the end of the winter months. Put these 2019 dates on your calendar and look for sign-up sheets nearer the time:



❖ Friday, April 5 – Beef Vegetable Soup

❖ Friday, May 17 – Shoofly Pies and Funny Cakes

❖ Friday, June 7 – Turkey Pot Pie



Remember, too, the Crafters have **12-Bean Soup Mix** available for sale all year long at **\$4.00**. See Carol Raszler to get your soup mix. Thank you to everyone who purchased Turkey Pot Pie at our soup sale on October 19 and a special thank you to all the soup makers. A total of 132 quarts were made.

Poinsettia Orders



Call the Church Office 610-264-8421 to order beautiful red poinsettias that are placed in the sanctuary. Also, you can use the order forms located on the table in the parlor area. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. The deadline to order is December 9th.



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 SaveAround 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.



Christmas Boutique at St. John's
Saturday, December 1, at Vendor Fair & Craft Show –
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 2 – before and after both worship services

Does Santa have your Christmas list? Better yet—do all your Christmas shopping in the parlor at St. John's on the above dates. Our Crafter Elves have been hard at work all year long helping Santa and now they get to bring their creations to you.



Looking for furnishings for Christmas? We've got lots of handmade

Christmas items, stocking stuffers, Christmas ornaments, and Christmas hangings and decorations. There are holiday and snowmen t-towels and table runners and cross-stitch finger-tip towels, bread cloths, and framed pictures. Choose from stockings, Santas, angels, snowmen, reindeer food, and more!

Have a new baby or children in the family? We've got cross-stitch and cloth baby bibs, knitted sweaters and hats, burping cloths, tooth fairy pillows, boo boo bunnies, washcloth dolls, American Girl doll sweaters, and more!

Need birthday or thank-you gifts? We've got cork hot plates, table runners, cross-stitch finger-tip towels and bread cloths, kitchen towels, potholders, dishcloths, scrubbies, friendship bunny and bikini towels, crocheted hangers, church cookbooks, 12-bean soup mix, and more!

If you need a specific item, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or Ruthann Hallman at 610-434-0314. Remember, our crafts are for sale all year long.



IronPigs Game Scheduled for 2019

We have reserved 100 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand for the IronPigs vs. Syracuse Mets game. Game day is Monday, August 19, at 7:05 p.m. Cost will be \$12 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ball park credit, and raffle ticket. While it is too early to know of any give-aways, we know that hotdogs will again be \$1 all night long. So mark your calendar—we won't be taking reservations and payment until spring. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7571.



A Note from . . .

Our Stewardship and Finance Chairperson

Are you thankful? How do you express thanksgiving to loved ones or someone who has been kind to you, showed you love and compassion in a time of need? How do you show someone thanksgiving for a treasured gift that means a lot to you? What happens to a relationship when thanksgiving is expressed? With Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays approaching I thought this might be something to write about.

First, to have the opportunity to give thanks you need to open yourself up and allow someone to give something to you. You are allowing someone the awesome gift of giving. The gift of giving is very powerful when done with love, compassion and cheerfully to both the giver and the receiver. Second, in accepting the gift you are humbling yourself, lowering your guard, allowing the love, compassion and cheerfulness of someone else to reach deep inside of you. Have you ever experienced this? Under these circumstances, giving thanks to a gift giver can be very powerful, emotional, it will bring tears of joy, it will strengthen a relationship beyond belief. It creates a self-awareness of our own giving and can challenge us to do more. So it is with GOD!

Do you thank GOD, the ultimate giver with this type of emotion? GOD loves us, each one of us and will never leave us or forsake us. The Bible tells us this. Do we truly believe it? How do we get to a point where every morning we pray to GOD out of thanks giving for all he provides for us? What will it take for each one of us to experience that emotional, relationship building thanksgiving with GOD and how will it affect our own giving? Only you have the answer to these questions.

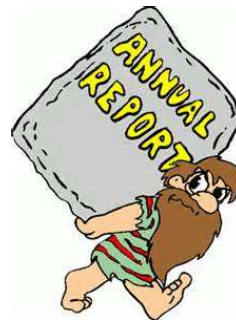
We can't out give GOD so consider being thankful to GOD by sharing some of your time, your talents and your finances. GOD will not let you down!!

God Bless,
Gary Madaus
Stewardship & Finance Chair.



Annual Reports Due

If you are a committee chairperson, Task Force leader, etc. you are asked to submit a yearly report updating our membership on what is happening in your committee. Please get your report to Susan Kuder, Office Administrator by January 20, 2019. You can also email your report to Susan at stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com



December 2018/January 2019 Music Notes

Advent will focus on symbols. First Sunday is **trumpet**. Austin Sommer will play trumpet at both services and you will hear the trumpet sound from the organ. The trumpet will announce the start of the Advent season.

The Second Sunday in Advent the symbol is **stars**. We will sing “Creator of the Stars of Night”. This is a 9th century Latin hymn and did not appear in hymn books until 1875.

Bells is the third symbol. The Handbell Choir will play on the Third Sunday in Advent and also accompany a Christmas carol.

We end the Fourth Sunday in Advent with **manger**. One of the most beloved Christmas carols is “Away in a Manger”, which we will sing that Sunday. The Kidz JAM Christmas Pageant will be presented at the 10:45 am service.

The Children’s Choir plus soloists will be part of the 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. The 9:00 service will have the Handbell, Jubilation, and Chancel Choirs, as well as additional soloists.

Epiphany is January 6th and the Chancel Choir will sing about the wise men and the treasures they brought to Jesus.

The Baptism of Jesus will be celebrated with the Jubilation Choir singing “You Are Mine”, by David Haas. This hymn has quickly risen to the top as one of the most important hymn contributions of the last decade. The scripturally rich words, sung in the first person as though by God, are filled with hope and assurance making this useful for baptism.

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany offer us rich symbolism. May the light of Christ shine on you.

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

“The Evening News Hour”

Sunday, December 23rd 10:45 AM Worship service

Join us as the KidZ JAM, Confirmation and Youth Classes tell the story of the Nativity as seen through the eyes of Reporters!



Youth Group Wide Christmas Party!

Monday, December 10th 6pm - 8pm



Mini, JR, Middler, and SR youth groups will enjoy a great Christmas Party together! Pizza will be provided, please RSVP to Pastor Michelle, sjuccyouth@gmail.com by no later than December 2nd!

All youth group members will do a “Secret Santa” exchange. Each member should bring a wrapped gift untagged no more than \$5 value for their own age group. Each youth group will exchange gifts with their own group in a fun way!

Got Prayer Sunday, January 20th

During Faith Formation hour 9:30 - 10:30AM

Interactive prayer stations in Fox Hall. Join us for a morning of creative prayer and worship!

got prayer?

Vendor Fair and Craft Show

Saturday, December 2nd

Shop until you drop!

Lots of Vendors and Crafters! Get your Christmas shopping done and support our Youth Group! Chinese Auction & 50-50 Raffle too! Kitchen will be open for lots of great lunchtime treats! You won't want to miss this!

Christmas Gift Opening Prayer

Lord, as we open these wonderful gifts help us to remember the unconditional love you have for us. Help us to remember with each gift opened, no matter how perfect or not, the many blessings you give us each day. May our hearts be filled with your presence in this moment and always. Remembering the gift and in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



PNEC Annual Youth Retreat

February 22nd - 24th, 2019

At Blue Mountain Retreat Center!

All teens 7th - 12th grade encouraged to attend!
\$50 deposit due ASAP (no later than January 10th)

Total cost for retreat is \$145

The Youth Ministry fundraising will cover \$50 per person.

After deposit, balance due per person will be \$45



St. John's UCC, Fullerton Mission Statement

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 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.

Mission Moment

Mitten Tree Project

This year’s Mitten Tree Project, organized by the Mission Committee, offers hope and a bright Christmas to those in need. The Mitten Tree is on display in the rear of the sanctuary.



We are giving you the opportunity to support any of the following:



Phoebe Ministries “Operation Santa” (senior citizens) – Green Mitten



Valley Youth House (homeless young people) – Red Mitten

You select a name and purchase a gift as follows:

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.

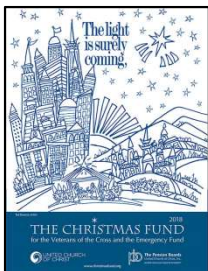


We Need New Mittens, Gloves and Hats. A separate tree will be on display for you to bring

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.

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund, is a special ministry of the Pension Boards of UCC National, which provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. It includes pension and health premium supplementation, emergency grants and assistance, and Christmas “thank-you” gift checks.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. **A special offering envelope and insert is included with this newsletter and will be received during worship on Sunday, December 16.**

Mission Moment - Continued

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of **December**, donations are needed for the following: **hot chocolate, canned peas, canned pears, and hot cereal**. For the month of **January**, donations are needed for the following: **pancake mix, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, and instant potatoes**. 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 donated cans of fruit cocktail for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

‡ **Neighbors in Need** – 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. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to NIN. A total of \$530.60 was received.**

‡ **Jubilee Breakfast Ministry** – The next two times to prepare a meal for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry are **Fridays, December 28 and January 25, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at Zion’s 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. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please **contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or email her at nancydough@msn.com.**

‡ **CROP Walk** – The CROP Walk was held on Sunday, October 14. **Members sponsoring our walkers donated \$905.00 and 4 bags of canned food**. 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. **Thank you to our seven walkers: Marion DeMilio, Amy Feidler, Eireann Hunsicker, Melissa Mendiolina, Barbara Menges, Regina Mohr, and Breeze Raub.**

How did our St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	October	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,374.74	\$14,963.62
CROP Walk	\$ 905.00	\$ 905.00 Final
Neighbors in Need	\$ 379.00	\$ 530.60 Final
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 205.00	\$ 1,344.00



December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2016, there were an estimated 240,000 toy-related injuries treated in US hospital emergency rooms. 73% were to people less than 15 years of age. There were also seven deaths of children under 12 from toys. Additionally, in 2007 alone, toy makers recalled over 19 million toys worldwide because of safety concerns such as lead paint and small magnets.

When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys.

Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toys they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the individual child who will receive it, *especially for infants and children under age three.*

Here are some tips.

1. Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid those that shoot or include parts that fly off. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily.
2. When purchasing *toys for children with special needs* try to choose toys that may appeal to different senses such as sound, movement, and texture.
3. Be diligent about inspecting toys your child has received. Check them for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness. Avoid toys with small parts in young children to prevent choking.
4. Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (give a helmet with the skateboard).
5. Avoid toys with lead paint, ropes and cords, or heating elements.

Ellen Sagazio

December 24th Christmas Eve

6:00PM Hymns: *O Come, All Ye Faithful *Away in a Manger *Silent Night! Holy Night!
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

9:00PM Hymns:

*Angels We Have Heard on High *What Child Is This *Silent Night! Holy Night! *Joy to the World

December 30th (9:30AM) One Service Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 First Sunday After Christmas

Hymns: *Once in Royal David's City *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *Go Tell It on the Mountain

Acolyte: Tommy Saeger

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

Altar Guild: (8:15AM) Nancy Dougherty, Beth Erney, Margaret Young

(10:45AM) Marion DeMilio, Doris Smith

January Worship Services 8:15AM and 10:45AM

January 6th Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 Epiphany of the Lord

8:15AM

Acolyte: Steven Schlenker

STARs Tech: Joe Trippett

10:45AM

Acolyte: Kayleigh Fisher

STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts

January 13th Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Baptism of the Lord

8:15AM

Acolyte: Gregory Sommer

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Acolyte: Karly Myers

STARs Tech: Don Schneck

January 20th Scripture: John 2:1-11 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany

8:15AM

Acolyte: Parker Christman

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Acolyte: Kyrrah Gedroic

STARs Tech: Nicole Perez

January 27th Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany

8:15AM

Acolyte: Alex Bryant

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer

10:45AM

Acolyte: Zoey Gedroic

STARs Tech: Corinna Schneck

Worship
SCHEDULE

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
thomasmoyer@rcn.com

Mr. Donald Schneck, I.T. Tech
eedon@ptd.net

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 clkulhamer@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

St. John’s UCC, Fullerton Website

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org