



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

January and February 2019



**January & February
2019**

Vol. 12 Issue 1

"Our Church Connection"

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Dear St. John's Church Family,

Each and every year is important. As we finish one year and question what the upcoming year will bring, one has to question how it will differ. Will it be better? Will there be more money in your pocket? Will you and your family be healthy? Will you walk closer with God?

Part of my job as your Senior Pastor is to look ahead and set some goals for us as a church. My Call says that it is my responsibility to cast a vision for the future. WOW! That is quite a task. How does one do that? I question God each year (actually every day) just what we should be doing as a church. How can we move ahead in ways that makes God smile, led by the teachings of Jesus and the light of the Holy Spirit?

Recently I started to hear about the National United Church of Christ contest entitled, "Be The Church." This monthly contest began in June 2016 and continued to January 2017. Local churches were invited to share how they were living out the various statements from the UCC "Be The Church" movement. I started to think about us. How does St. John's live out the components of "Be The Church?" How can we Be The Church in better ways?

You may have heard about a mega church in California that did the unthinkable in 2008. They canceled all worship services for a weekend! Rather than meeting in their large, beautiful, air conditioned sanctuary, they cancelled their many weekend worship services. They canceled their services in order to be the church out into the world. Of their 7,000 believers, 5,500 of them showed up that weekend to live out their faith, to be the church. They tackled 139 community service projects at 70 different sites throughout the North San Diego County. This congregation came to understand that it isn't just about going to church, it is about being the church. We need to be the church while in church, in the community, or wherever we are in the world.

Somehow society has begun to think choosing a church and going to church is about meeting our own needs. In reality, a good church is one that sends the believers out into the world to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that in order to be a great church, we need to find ways to spiritually feed our people and then challenge ourselves to do more as individuals and as a community. You don't GO to church. You ARE the church!

So, with the nod from Consistory, 2019 we will talk more and more about how to Be The Church. I'm excited! And now I'm inviting you to get on board! Participate! Share your visions. Share ways we can do awesome ministries. Help me to cast the vision!

See you in (and out) of church,

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.

EnjoythisLife

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

Thank You!!!

Dear Pastor Becky and Bob,

Thank you so much for performing the most beautiful ceremony for us. Our wedding was the most perfect day I could have imagined.

We are blessed to have you in our lives.

Blessings,
Nicole and John McWilliams



Thank you very much for the blanket and the goodies and thanks to the Baatz family for delivering them to me!

Ray Lane



To the Mission Committee and all the people of St. John's,

Thank you so much for the \$500 gifts for Noemi and I to go on the PNEC Puerto Rico Mission Trip. We really appreciate the support of St. John's.

Peace,
Rev. Dave Quinn

Thank you to Pastor Quinn for his visits to me while I was in the hospital. It was very much appreciated.

Shirley Downing

Dear Pastor Beckwith and congregation,

I wanted to extend the district's sincere appreciation for your generosity in donating and delivering hats and gloves for students and their families in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the kindness that you have extended towards our school family over and over again. Your donation will allow us to provide needed items to students and their families to assist them in staying warm during the winter season.

We are grateful that our schools are located in such a caring community!

Sincerely,
Lorie D. Hackett, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Whitehall-Coplay School District



Dear St. John's,

Thank each and everyone there! A heartfelt thanks for all the cards and gift bag sent to me and for everyone thinking of me.

Best Wishes,
Ruth Eli

Thank you so much for allowing us to hold our Respite program here. We have so much fun playing here!

Valley Youth House Respite Program

Dear Pastor Becky,

I want to thank you for proclaiming the good news in a meaningful and accessible manner. I've "shopped" different churches and never felt the positivity that I feel at St. John's. I'm so blessed that I attended last year's – "The Nativity – As Seen by the Animals." I was hooked on a church that wasn't all stuffy and serious. I felt uplifted after every Sunday service.

Sincerely,
Carole O'Connell

Dear St. John's UCC Fullerton,
Thank you very much for the Christmas goodie bag! It was very much appreciated!

Also thank you to Rev. David Quinn and his wife, Noemi who visited us and sang Christmas carols.

Robert Weaver



A great big thank you to everyone that came out to help with the making of the potato filling...the peelers (who peeled 300 pounds of potatoes), the cooks, the other kitchen help, the packagers, and the clean-up crew.

Hope I did not miss anyone and if I did thank you. I also would like to thank everyone who supported the sale by purchasing the filling. Another big thank you to our donors who contributed the ingredients.

Looking forward to doing it again in 2019 and hoping to see even more helpers next year.

Cheryl Weaver and Ruthann Hallman



Dear Friends in Christ,

The coalition of churches that makes up the Whitehall Food Pantry, gratefully acknowledges your continued contributions and support of the mission we share. The money and food that you provide is critical to the mission of providing for our patrons who are experiencing difficult times.

We thank you for your generous support and a happy holiday and safe winter.

With Blessings,
Judy Ehret for
The Whitehall Food Pantry



Dear Friends at St. John's UCC, Fullerton,

Thank you for your generous donation of the Christmas mitten tree project to the Sixth Street Shelter. We sincerely appreciate the partnership of friends like you as we help families improve their stability, self-sufficiency, resilience and quality of life.

The Sixth Street Shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness for over 30 years. Residents at the Sixth Street Shelter learn how to solve their own problems and to take advantage of opportunities for personal growth. They develop and actively work toward long-term housing, employment and educational goals during their stay.

Thank you again for your gift to the Sixth Street Shelter. You are an important part of our work, and we are truly grateful for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,
Kristine Blasco, Director
Sixth Street Shelter



Members and friends of St. John's UCC,
Fullerton,

I thank you for all the cards during the holiday season. I appreciate you all thinking of me. Thank you Pastor Dave for his visits. It is always good to get company.

I thank you for the fleece cover. It already has been used keeping me warm watching TV and for all the goodies! Yummy Yum!

Also thank you to the children for their cards. They are Great!

God Bless you All,
Eleanor Smith

I would like to thank Rev. Quinn for all of his prayers and visits to my home, hospital and Rehab. Center.

I also would like to thank Rev. Becky and the congregation for their prayers too.

Thank you,
Dorothy Kehnel



Thank you to everyone for the Christmas goodie bag. It was very nice to think of me.

Don Downing

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

Dear Friends at St. John's UCC,

Thank you for all your prayers and get-well cards.
They lifted my spirits to heaven.

It has been a slow process of healing, but I was able
to return to my church a few days ago.

Miss you all and please keep praying.

Thank you.

God Bless,
Pastor George Eckstein



The Staff Christmas lunch was held at Morgan's on December 11th. We had great food and an awesome time.

It was a huge surprise to find out that the luncheon was paid for by members who saw it listed on the church calendar. Thank you!

We are blessed to serve on staff at St. John's and minister among wonderful and generous people.

~ The St. John's UCC Staff



Words cannot begin to describe the gratitude we feel for the many letters and Christmas greetings sent to our son during the holidays. Your prayers and support for Joey during this difficult time is amazing. And to those Secret Santas, we are overwhelmed by your outpouring of generosity.

A special thank you goes to Pastor Becky for her regular visits to Joey and for giving him something he sorely misses—a hug. We are truly blessed by everyone's caring and comforting words, your actions, and by your never-ending prayers. Thank you.

~ Paul & Carol Raszler

St. John's Secret Santas,

Thank you for another wonderful Advent and Christmas season at St. John's. It is truly a joy and privilege to serve God on Grape Street and in the Whitehall community.

During the season, several packages, cookie/candy tins and more made their way to my desk or mailbox. Several did not have a name on a tag. I believe we have Elves in our midst! So, thank you!!!

I look forward to another challenging and blessed year.

With Love, Becky

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you for your support of our mission. The free meal provided by your church, shows our guests that our community considers their safety and well-being, of utmost importance.

We thank you for your caring spirit and generous support and wish you a happy holiday and safe winter.

With Blessings,
Judy and Sheldon Ehret for The Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative



Our Church Family



Baptisms

Lucas Mark Weidner was baptized on November 25th. Lucas is the son of Kaitlyn Irving and Kevin Weidner.

Bailey Rose Kulhamer was baptized on December 9th. She is the second daughter of Jamie and Andrew Kulhamer. Her older sister is Riley. Grandparents (members) are Colleen and Michael Kulhamer.

Upcoming Baptisms

- 1-20 ~ Ella Elizabeth Marino
- 1-27 ~ Zoey Madison Chambers
- 2-24 ~ Maggie Shae Laders



Deaths

David Fisher died on October 26th. His Celebration of Life Service was held on November 18th. David was married to Ann Fisher and his sister was Susan Geissing.

Lillian Ruth best known as “Betsy” died on November 25th. We celebrated her life on December 1st.

Kenneth Schneck died on November 29th and his life was celebrated on December 3rd. Ken leaves behind a son, Keith, daughter Carol Seagreaves, his brothers, Roger and Robert and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Denise Harry died on December 11th. Her Celebration of Life service was held on December 19th. Denise was married to Carl Harry and had two adult children, Melissa and Carl, Jr. and two granddaughters.

Wedding

On December 8th **Nicole Perez and John McWilliams** were married at St. John's. We wish them every happiness!

Upcoming Wedding

2-2 Jodi Williams & Jennifer Snyder

Change of Address:

Edith Crews

Above and Beyond Senior Living
2232 29th St., SW
Allentown, PA 18103

Jeffrey Phillips

2721 North Lane
Orefield, PA 18069-2828



Doris Guldner

6467 Kernsville Road
Orefield, PA 18069-2738

Andrew Mill

1514C Ravena Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015-9432

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.

*The articles for the
March newsletter are
due on February 10th.*

January Anniversaries

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

January 27 – Shelby & Brent Nailor – 7 years

January 30 – Doris & Ronald Smith – 48 years

February Anniversaries

February 10 – Cynthia & Edward Sommer – 46 years

February 21 – Judith & Barrie Carr – 38

February 24 – Cynthia & Michael Bundra - 18 years

Meet Our New Members Who Joined December 9th



Kathy Haggerty

Kathy works at Air Products as an Accountant. She has a husband, Jim and two daughters Kylee and Delaney. Kathy's hobbies include knitting and cooking.



Nicole, Craig, Logan and Laney Headman

Nicole works at WCSB as a para-educator. Craig works at Lonza Pharma & Bio as a Quality Manager. Logan is in 8th grade and is involved in football, basketball and hunting. Laney is in 5th grade and enjoys dance, Girl Scouts and swimming.



Carol Olson and Chilly

Carol is a volunteer at LVH-Muhlenberg and she runs errands in the Volunteer Office. Her hobbies include hiking, horseback riding, reading, bird watching, gardening, geocaching, crossword and Sudoku puzzles.



Roberta and Bruce Pope

Roberta works at HCSC-Miler Keystone Blood Center. Her occupation is Human Resources Generalist. Roberta enjoys traveling.

Bruce works at CACLV-Second Harvest Food Bank in the warehouse. He enjoys cooking, fishing and gardening.



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.



Natalie and Franklin Reichl

Natalie retired as a CLIU21Teacher/Ed. Consultant. She enjoys reading, travel, sports, and Iron Pigs.

Frank is retired but had worked as an estimator in the construction business. His hobbies include drag racing, cooking, music, travel and sports.

Congratulations Ron Glass LCCC Foundation Board Of Director Emeritus

Lehigh Carbon Community College honored Ronald Glass on December 12, 2018 by conferring the Emeritus status. The Emeritus designation is an elite honor that is only bestowed on those select individuals whose service, performance, and relationships are determined to be exceptional. Ron was the foundation director from July 2003 through December 2018. Ron also had a career as a teacher and administrator.



Susan Felegy highlighted in Village Voice

Sue Felegy a long time member of St. John's was recently featured in the "Village Voice" a publication of Masonic Villages (where she now lives) in Elizabethtown. The article is entitled, "Believing in Miracles." Sue shares some important stories from her life and how she was led to different careers in her life. She had been involved as an educator, first responder, healthcare. The article is filled with what we frequently referred to here at St. John's as "God Moments." If you would like to read the article you can find it in the church office.

Sue is also quite a poet. Over the years we have included some of her works in our St. John's newsletter. The following is one of her writings:

"Well Done, Faithful One" written by Susan Felegy

*Each one of us is given gifts to use throughout our life,
And we can choose to hide them or to use them if we like;
There're some of us who are fearful and use the least we can,
And some of us use all our gifts to help our fellow man.*

*These gifts can be a talent to build, or sew or heal,
Or they can be supportive gifts that others can see and feel;
We choose to do as little as we must to live each day,
Or we can give our all in what we choose to do and say.*

*Those people who inspire us are those who always ask,
"What can I do?" "How can I help?" whenever there's a task.
They do not say, "I am too tired." "I won't be home that day."
Or "I'm too old." "I don't know how." Or "How much is the pay?"*

*Our friends on earth and those above all see how well we live,
If we do enough to just get by, and how much did we give;
And when we're called to our Heavenly home and our years on earth are done,
We hope we hear our Master's words: "Well done, my faithful one!"*

Church News



January Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 Services

January 20 John 2:1-11
January 27 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

February Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 Services

February 3 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
February 10 Luke 5:1-11
February 17 Luke 6:17-26
February 24 Luke 6:27-38

Consistory Retreat

The 2019 Consistory began 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.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Thanks To Those Who Served on Consistory – Their Three-Year Term Ended in 2018

Elder: Kim Hillegass
Deacons: Ginny Brokenshire, Kenda Catalini, Mike Gravely
Youth Deacon: Melissa Mendiolina
(Youth Deacons serve a one-year term)

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.



February's meeting is Saturday, February 2nd at 8:30AM.



From Our Stewardship and Finance Committee

Happy New Year to all of St. John's church family. I'm hopeful that we will have a wonderful, enriching, prosperous church year. I say this knowing it will depend on each one of us being good stewards. The new year and my position as chairperson of the Stewardship and Finance Committee has peaked my interest in the meaning of stewardship. So much of last year the focus was on finances and church budgets and all the things related to dollars and cents. Although this is important, I want to talk about the first part of the committee's responsibility, Stewardship!

What the heck is stewardship anyway? What does it really mean to be a good steward? Even more important, as Christians, what does it mean to be a good biblical steward? I did a bunch of reading about this subject from a few sources on the internet and found an essay by Bill Peel that spoke to me loud and clear. Below is my attempt to condense this into a short understanding over the next four months/newsletters.



According to Bill Peel, there are four important principles about biblical stewardship we must understand: the principles of ownership, responsibility, accountability and reward.

The principle of ownership: GOD owns everything; (there is much scripture to support this) hence GOD calls upon each one of us to manage or administer whatever GOD places under our control with commitment of ourselves and our possessions to GOD's service. This means we must recognize that we really don't have the right of control over ourselves or our property. How do you feel about this?

According to this, our homes are not our homes, our cars are not our cars, our talents are not our talents. Our church is not our church! They all reside with GOD, GOD owns them. It's GOD's world! How are you doing with this stewardship thing so far? It is tough. Pride cannot exist here, only humility and service to GOD! Let's all pray to be better biblical stewards and see what happens! Through prayer we become closer to GOD and our sense of pride withers and humility can seep in.

Talk to you next month. Coming up, Principle of Responsibility.

Blessings

Gary Madaus

Stewardship and Finance Committee



Live Nativity ~ December 15th ~ Huge Success!



The St. John's Live Nativity was a great Advent Event! We moved the performance over to the new parking lot and we became more visible to the Grape Street traffic. We had good attendance at both performances. The crafts and snacks in Fox Hall were well appreciated by everyone who attended. The live animals and petting opportunities are always a hit with the children. Special thanks to this year's director Noreen Miller and her awesome staff!

Messy Church Worship Service

Thursday, February 14th

6:00 pm

At Messy Church we spend time 'getting messy' with activities, games, or challenges, while we explore the evening's theme. Then we come together for a short time of worship geared for people of all ages. We finish off with a Snack together! It's all free and there's something for everyone – children of all ages, parents, and adults alike – why not come along and join us!



Would You Like the Newsletter Emailed to You?

You can 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.

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.

Make a Contribution to our Ministry

If you would like to make a contribution, we offer electronic giving and credit card options for our members and friends of the church.

Go to our website stjohnsuccfullerton.org

Click on contribution

Click on "Make a contribution"

Create your online profile

We appreciate you helping us to be good stewards of our resources.

*Your contributions allow us to
continue God's work in our community
and beyond.*

February 17th St. John's Annual Meeting: 2018 In Review

The Annual meeting is on Sunday, February 17th following the 10:45 a.m. service. We will be having our usual covered dish (so bring something yummy!) and going through highlights from our annual reports.

We were challenged in 2018 and know we need to step it up financially. So, as we look at highlights from the year we will also be thinking ahead. What IS God calling us to do? To become? As a church? Please mark your calendars. Everyone is invited but only members can vote.



Sharon Antrim has been nominated to fill in a spot on our 2019 Consistory slate. Bob Bold submitted his resignation with regret and Sharon has agreed to accept the honor of becoming a St. John's deacon. This will be completed at the Annual meeting.

Valley Over The Edge

Would you like to view the Valley from the top of Two City Center, an 11 story office/retail building on the corner of 7th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown?



Lehigh Conference of Churches is partnering with Center City Allentown to raise over \$100,000 to help local families and individuals facing severe consequences of poverty such as homelessness and food insecurity as well as behavior health conditions and severe mental health disorders.

You can become one of 75 individuals who will get the chance to rappel 11 stories on June 1. All it takes is the ability to raise \$1,000 and the guts to go over the edge!

If you are interested, or want to be part of a team that helps sponsor this event, please let Pastor Becky know. It would be great to have some St. John's UCC, Fullerton part of this awesome event.

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.



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 began January 6th.



Lady PEEPS Invites You!

Relax After the Hectic Holidays

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be welcoming 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, visit several prayer stations, and take a prayer walk inside the sanctuary. Join us for a special evening. Refreshments will be served.

Color My World



On **Tuesday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Fox Hall**, the Lady PEEPS will

enjoy an evening of pizza, pencil art, and life lessons. With the theme "Color My World". We will also welcome those wonderful and talented older teenage girls from St. John's. We'll all sit down together and share a meal and dessert, color, talk about our lives, and get to know each other. Come warm your hearts on a cold winter evening and enjoy spending time with the next generation!



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.

Healthcare Committee Presents: Healthy Eating & End Of Life Decision

Sunday March 17th the Healthcare Committee is offering a lunch and panel discussion. The event will be in Fox Hall following the 10:45 a.m. service. We will start with a healthy lunch prepared by the Healthcare committee members and friends. After the lunch there will be a presentation on "End of Life Decisions." We are looking to balance spiritual with secular/legal decisions that need to be at the end of a life. This important discussion will touch on many issues that we all need to be aware of for ourselves, our families and friends. We will have the opportunity to talk openly, ask questions, and know we are in a comfortable setting.



The panel will include Jay Gilbert, a member and local funeral director. Jay has a great reputation and is well respected in the community and beyond. Pastor Becky will be sharing some of the Christian concepts of death, what happens spiritually and more.

Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office. Bring your friends!

Matey's 12" Pizza Sale - Just in Time for Super Bowl LIII



We offer the following choices of pizzas for \$6.25:

- Original Gourmet (mozzarella & provolone)
- Triple Cheese (mozzarella, provolone & cheddar)
- Thick Crust Triple Cheese
- Monterey Pepper Jack Cheese
- Smoked Provolone & Mozzarella Cheese
- Gluten Free Triple Cheese also available for \$8.25



Pickup is Saturday, February 2, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon in Fox Hall or Sunday, February 3, before and after worship services. A sign-up sheet for orders is in the back of the sanctuary or you can call Kevin Hoderman at 610-737-0080. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Deadline to order is Sunday, January 20.

* * *

Nut Sale

We still have several bags left of Pecan Halves, Whole Cashews, and Heart Healthy Nut Mix for \$11.00. If you would like to make a purchase, please see Carol Raszler before or after worship. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

* * *

2019 Lehigh Valley SaveAround Books

We have a few of these money-saving coupon books remaining at a cost of \$25.00. The books feature coupons and savings on: fine & casual dining, fast food & carryout, shopping, movies, attractions, etc. See either Tracey Glass or Carol Raszler. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

* * *

Soup Sale Coming Soon

Due to the uncertainty of the winter weather, the Soup Makers won't be back to sell their delicious Beef Vegetable Soup until Friday, April 5. More details will be in the March newsletter. Just a Reminder: If you need soup between now and the April sale, the Crafters have 12-Bean Soup Mix available for sale all year long at \$4.00. See Carol Raszler to get your soup mix. A special thank you goes to those members who donated 7 turkeys for our future soup sales and fundraisers.

Crafters Group News

St. John's Crafters would like to thank everyone who purchased items during the holiday season at the Vendor Fair and Craft Show and at our Christmas Boutique in December. We had sales totaling over \$500.00.

As you may be aware, at the end of the year any profit from our craft sales go towards Mission Outreach. **We are pleased to report that \$1,550.00 will be given towards the PNEC & PSEC Joint Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.** With two trips planned in April and May of 2019, volunteers from both conferences have teamed together to help families rebuild from the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017.



Put on your Calendar: The Crafters will be back again on Sundays, **March 24 and 31**, with Easter and spring items for sale. In the meantime, 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.**

Sponsor Flowers and Bulletins

The following dates are available to sponsor **Altar Flowers:**

February 17, 24
March 3, 10, 24, 31
April 7, 14
May 26
June 2, 16, 23, 30
July 21, 28
August 4, 25
September 8, 15, 22
October 27
November 10, 24
December 8, 15, 29

Cost is \$20.00 for each vase and \$30.00 for a piano arrangement.

Please call Sally Gibson at 610-264-1210 if interested in any of the above dates.



The following dates are available to sponsor **Bulletins:**

January 27
February 17, 24
March 3, 10, 24, 31
April 28
May 19
June 2, 23, 30
July 21, 28
August 4, 18, 25
September 29
October 13, 20, 27
November 10, 17
December 15

Please call Sally Gibson at 610-264-1210 if interested in any of the above dates. Cost is \$20.00 for bulletins.

Ironpigs Party Porch

Spring is just around the corner, and Ironpigs Baseball is on the way! We have again reserved the Party Porch at CocaCola Park for our annual visit. This season, our date is Friday, June 28th. Baseball, food, fireworks, with a great view, all for the same price as before, \$37 per ticket. Contact Tom Moyer for your reservations. As usual, first come, first serve.



Legacy Tree



Recently St. John's received a donation to add a new leaf to the Legacy Tree. Our thanks to Kathy Bright for her contribution in memory of her husband, Martin Bright. For more than a dozen years the parlor area has been graced by our "Legacy Tree". On it are leaves honoring or memorializing more than 52 individuals who have been so recognized.

Since its creation, the fund has grown to over \$450,000. Our goal is to reach \$500,000. But not only does this recognize loved ones, it also has a long-range benefit to the church as donations are deposited in our Endowment Account. The use of the monies in this account are controlled by a legal document which identifies how much of the annual growth can be used for church expenses. Over the years, more than \$150,000 (\$20,000 in the last year alone) has been used in this way. Therefore, not only does this honor individuals, it also serves to strengthen the foundation of the church. When passing through the parlor area, take a moment to stop and reflect on the names of individuals so recognized.

Do you have a loved one who you would like to honor? It could be an anniversary, a parent, grandparent, spouse, child or grandchildren to name a few. A plaque on the wall explains the various giving categories. These start at \$1,000 and there is also a provision where one can create an "account" making donations as often as desired toward earning a leaf. Our challenge is to grow our Legacy Tree. Won't you join the many others who have already done so?

January/February 2019 Music Notes



The choirs of St. John's sang and rang beautifully throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Now in the season of Epiphany, the choirs will "shine".

The Handbell and Jubilation Choirs will ring and sing songs of service, love, and mercy. The Chancel choir anthems focus on love, service, and peace. The Kidz JAM will be singing on the 24th of February. They will sing "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian".

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" is an African American spiritual. It was likely composed in 1750s Virginia by African-American slaves exposed to the teaching of evangelist Samuel Davies. The music and lyrics were first printed in the *1907 Folk Songs of the American Negro*, edited by brothers Frederick Work and John W. Work, Jr. An interesting fact is many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

The word *Christian* was first used with the people of Antioch because they believed the account of the gospel by personally accepting God's free gift of salvation and making Christ the Savior and Lord of their lives. (Acts 11:26)

The simple and repetitive words of this spiritual help us focus on what it means to be a Christian.

Musically,

Gail

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



2018 Contribution Statements Now Available

The statements are on a table in the back of the church. If you are unable to pick up your statements, please call the Church office at 610-264-8421 and it will be mailed to you.

Christian Education & Youth

Advent Kick off!

We enjoyed making our “Advent-in-a-box” with our family Advent Kick off! We hope you enjoyed using them during this advent season! Please tell Pastor Michelle about your experiences!



“The Evening News Hour”

Thank you to everyone that participated or helped with this year’s KidZ JAM Christmas Pageant.

The Christmas spirit filled the sanctuary! What an amazing morning! Great Message from our children and youth!



Souperbowl of Caring Lunch!

Sunday, February 3rd after the 10:45am Worship Service

Join us for a Soup Luncheon to benefit “Souperbowl of Caring.” Warm up with a nice bowl of soup and enjoy fellowship & fun with us! The Faith Formation and Youth Groups will be collecting a free will offering after each worship service and there will be a donation basket at the luncheon.

Love to Cook Soup?

We are looking for soup donations for the luncheon on Sunday, February 3rd. If you are interested please call or email Pastor Michelle, sjucyouth@gmail.com or 610-264-8421.

*Save
the Date*

Faith Traditions -
Confirmation Field Trip
Friday, February 15th

Sr. & Middler Youth Group Movie Night

“The House with a Clock in Its Walls”

Friday, February 8th - 6pm -8pm

KidZ Teach Sunday! Sunday February 10th 9:30 am

KidZ JAM classes will participate in our first “KidZ Teach Sunday!” Each class will teach the other KidZ JAM classes, our confirmands and youth about the fruits of the spirit!

All are invited to join us and learn from our children!

Save the Date!

Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13th

10:00AM



PNEC Annual Youth Retreat

**“#REALTALK...
Sexuality and our Faith”**

Grades 6th-12th

May 4th-6th at Spruce Lake!

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

The balance of the \$145 fee will be partially subsidized by the Youth Group Fundraising Fund (\$50) Participants will need to remit the \$45 balance by no later than February 1st.

Forms available in the youth room (Room 305)
Please let Pastor Michelle know when you have mailed in your registration to the Conference office.

HealthCare Ministries

Happy New Year St. John's! The holidays are over for another year and it's time to get prepared for the winter weather. In mid-November we experienced that first winter blast of snow that left so many of us stranded for hours on icy, slick roads with traffic at a halt everywhere! Many times, it takes times like that to spur us into thinking about how we should be better prepared for emergencies! Here are some reminder tips on how to prepare for winter and keep yourselves safe.

Prepare your car

1. Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
2. Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
3. Check the tire tread; replace with all-weather or snow tires.
4. Service the radiator and maintain the antifreeze level.
5. Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you get stranded. It should include:
 - cell phone, portable charger and extra batteries
 - blankets *snacks and water *flashlight, battery-powered radio
 - first aid kit *plastic bags for sanitation *compass or maps
 - booster cables, flares, tire pump, bag of sand or cat litter for traction

If you do plan to travel

1. Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.
2. If you must travel, inform a friend of your route and estimated time of arrival.
3. If you become stranded, move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area.
Run the engine for 10 minutes every hour. Turn on the inside overhead lights to make yourself more visible during a storm when the car is running. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
Keep your body warm by wrapping yourself in blankets, stay close to another person and keep moving your body for increased blood circulation and warmth.

At home, equip in advance for emergencies

1. Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and store water in clean containers.
2. Keep your cell phone fully charged.
3. Keep an up-to-date emergency kit including battery-operated devices such as a flashlight, radio and lamps.
4. Prepare a first aid kit. Make sure you have extra medicine, enough baby items and some cat litter or sand for icy sidewalks.
5. Protect your family from carbon monoxide by keeping grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage. Keep generators at least 20 ft. from your house. Leave your house immediately if the CO2 detector sounds, and call 911.

The winter season, with the occasional fresh blanket of pure white snow covering everything, is beautiful to behold! Many of us still like to get outdoors to enjoy this aspect of nature. Whether it be to ski or ice skate, sled or build a snowman, shovel or walk, it is part of a natural order of our planet and we should embrace it and enjoy it as much as we can. All you have to do is dress for it! Layers of light, warm clothing, a windproof coat, mittens, hats, scarves and waterproof boots will do the trick!

Last, but not least, check on vulnerable friends and family ; young children, older adults and the chronically ill when bad weather strikes. Don't forget to bring your pets inside or provide them with warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink. Don't over stress yourself shoveling heavy snow, take lots of breaks or get younger people to help you. Let it SNOW!

Submitted by Diane Buss

Mission Moment!



Pathways

A Program of the Lehigh Conference of Churches



Pathways' goal is to provide men, women, and families who are homeless or threatened with homelessness with the services and support that they need to move, find, and maintain permanent housing. It assists individuals with their housing, utility, employment, public benefits, and transportation needs. It also assists those who have lost or are in danger of losing their homes and have temporarily moved in with friends or family, and those who fearfully live one paycheck away from homelessness.

The Mission Committee will be collecting items for Pathways during the month of February.

We can help by providing Pathways with the following supplies needed for their clients' care:

- ◆ Shampoo
- ◆ Soap
- ◆ Toothbrush
- ◆ Disposable Razor
- ◆ Conditioner
- ◆ Body Wash
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Diapers (all sizes)
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Shaving Cream
- ◆ Baby Wipes

(Note: Please, no hotel-size products—only regular size)

A complete shopping list of items can be found on the small table in the coat room outside the sanctuary along with a container to place your donations. Thank you for your support.

PNEC & PSEC Joint Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

The Mission Committee is happy to report that **\$1,550.00** (the profit from sales earned by the Crafters Group in 2018) has been given towards the **Joint Mission Trip to Puerto Rico**. Through the joint efforts of both Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences, two Mission Trips are planned in 2019—April 28 to May 4 and May 12 to May 18. Rebuilding efforts have been underway ever since Puerto Rico was decimated by Hurricane Maria in September 2017, but much more work still needs to be done. To date, 17 volunteers from both conferences have committed to becoming part of this team effort including our own **Pastor Dave Quinn and his wife Noemi**. We wish them “God Speed” as they work to help restore the lives of the Puerto Rican people.



Whitehall Food Pantry

Closing out the month of **January**, donations are needed for the following: **pancake mix, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, and instant potatoes**. For the month of **February**, donations are needed for the following: **canned peaches, canned corn, coffee, pancake syrup, and tea bags**. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items or monetary donations can always be made at any time throughout the year.

Mission Moment - Continued

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

The next two times to prepare a meal for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry are **Fridays, January 25 and February 22, 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.**

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

✝ **Mitten Tree Project** – Thank you to all our St. John’s Santas for purchasing Christmas gifts for those listed on our Mitten Tree. We are pleased to report the following:

- ♡ **Phoebe Ministries** (senior citizens) – 20 individuals received a gift.
- ♡ **Valley Youth House** (homeless young people) – 40 individuals received a gift.
- ♡ **Whitehall-Coplay School District & Sixth Street Shelter** – a total of 167 mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves were collected and distributed. Thank you also to **St. John’s Girl Scout Troop #6038 and to the Fraternal Order of Eagles** who also participated in the mitten drive.

Your generosity offered hope and a bright Christmas to those in need.

✝ **The Christmas Fund** – This 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. **A special offering was taken in December and currently we have received \$1,022.00.**

How did our St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	November	December	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,390.00	\$1,728.00	\$18,081.62 Final
The Christmas Fund	N/A	\$1,022.00	\$ 1,022.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 133.00	-0-	\$ 1,477.00 Final

The Mission Committee wishes to thank our St. John’s Family for your generous contributions towards Mission Outreach Programs in 2018.

Those who served on the Mission Committee for 2018 were: Bob Dougherty (chairperson), Linda Apple, Marion DeMilio, Kim Hillegass, Bill Meckes, Carol Raszler (secretary), Connie Viglione, and Pastor Becky.

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

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

8:15AM

Acolyte: Parker Christman STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Acolyte: Kyras Gedroic STARs Tech: Nicole Perez

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

8:15AM

Acolyte: Alex Bryant STARs Tech: Tom Moyer

10:45AM

Acolyte: Zoey Gedroic STARs Tech: Corinna Schneck

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

February 3rd Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Hymns: Where Charity and Love Prevail ~ The Gift of Love ~ They'll Know We Are Christians

8:15AM

Elders: Charlie Apple, Ron Glass

Ushers: Kenda Catalini, Sharon Antrim, John Viglione, Mike Gravely, Tim Silfies, Lori Silfies, Barbara Seeds, Nancy Dougherty

Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim Acolyte: Andrew Deutsch STARs Tech: Joe Trippett

10:45AM

Elders: Marion DeMilio, Gary George

Ushers: Wendy Fox, Ruthann Hallman, Bob Czekner, Sharon Czekner, Gary Weaver, Cheryl Weaver, Ginny Brokenshire, Linda Smith

Scripture Reader: Linda Smith Acolyte: Tyler McNicholas STARs Tech: Corinna Schneck

February 10th Scripture: Luke 5:1-11 5th Sunday After Epiphany
Hymn: Here I Am, Lord ~ Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore ~ Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

8:15AM

Ushers: Brian Deutsch, Andrew Deutsch, Parker Christman

Scripture Readers: STARS Acolyte: Bailee Neitz STARS Tech: Susan Rarich

10:45AM

Ushers: Janet Ebert, Natalie Reichl, Frank Reichl

Scripture Readers: STARS Acolyte: Jillian Sommer STARS Tech: Don Schneck

February 17th Scripture: Luke 6:17-26 6th Sunday After Epiphany
Hymns: Come, We Who Love God's Name ~ When the Poor Ones ~ I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

8:15AM

Ushers: Gregory Sommer, Parker Christman

Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass Acolyte: Gregory Sommer STARS Tech: Joe Trippett

10:45AM

Ushers: Marina Newton, David Newton, Melissa Mendiolina

Scripture Reader: Karly Myers Acolyte: Tommy Saeger STARS Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts

February 24th Scripture: Luke 6:27-38 7th Sunday After Epiphany
Hymns: Help Us Accept Each Other ~ I Then Shall Live ~ O For a World

8:15AM

Acolyte: Steven Schlenker STARS Tech: Tom Moyer

10:45AM

Ushers: Brian Fisher, Tracy Fisher, Kayleigh Fisher

Scripture Reader: Natalie Reichl Acolyte: Karly Myers STARS Tech: Nicole Perez



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 under School and Business closings.

If you prefer, you may sign up to receive closing email alerts at www.wfmz.com by following these directions:

Log on to www.wfmz.com
Under weather - Select: School & Business Closings
Scroll down to the bottom of the page
Click on: Email newsletter & School closing alerts
Create a profile with your email address
Enter your information: Click ok
Click on "Closing Alerts"
Select: ST JOHNS UCC -FULLERTON
Click: Save



Change of Address?

Please Let us know

stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com or
call 610-264-8421



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!!

*Hospital Code for our
church - 473*

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

- Sharon Antrim
- Sharon Czekner
- Marion DeMilio
- Bob Dougherty
- Wendy Fox
- Ted Hess
- Colleen Kulhamer
- Eireann Hunsicker, Youth Deacon
- Noreen Miller
- Pete Mohr
- Paul Raszler
- Anne Welsh
- 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 – Michelle Gutekunst
- 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