



**RICK
BORGMAN**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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“Things That Have Never Been”

Someone once said, “There’s nothing new under the sun.” While we often tend to see life and history repeat itself and revisit things we thought long gone in our society, perhaps there are some things that have never been before that we might choose to usher into our life and world.

As a child, I recall going to my grandparent’s home on many New Year’s Eves and on more than one occasion, we would gather with their friends (I was the young tag-along) and enjoy dinner and music (Guy Lombardo and his band in New York City) and watch the great crystal ball drop at midnight eastern time, have our toast of something with bubbles, and then go home! I remember well the festiveness and embraces, the anticipation of what the New Year might hold for each of us. What “new thing” might be in store for us? Would it be good? Would there be big challenges or great opportunities or both? As an adolescent, there were not these great existential questions, but there was some excitement and hopefulness about the future.

As we approach the New Year, it’s a perfect time to reflect on the past and set intentions for the future. Here are some inspirational quotes to motivate and guide you into 2025:

“Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings.”
—Jonathan Lockwood Huie

“New beginnings are in order, and you are bound to feel some level of excitement as new chances come your way.”
—Oscar Auliq-Ice

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on.”
—Hal Borland

“You can get excited about the future. The past won’t mind.”
—Hillary DePiano

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”
—Rainer Maria Rilke

These quotes encourage us to embrace change and view the New Year as an opportunity for growth and new experiences. The last one grabbed my attention.

Even with the concerns many of us may have about the future... and there's good reason for concern... there will also be opportunities for us to engage the future in ways which perhaps we've never thought we could. There will be moments for us to stand together and find new places of unity and common cause. There will be times where life may present challenges for which we never imagined we would be called on to take action. We will undoubtedly be looking for our faith to give us strength, inspiration and encouragement along the way.

With each change of year, I ask myself what I will do so my life actions look more like those of Jesus. How will I engage people more intentionally with hope? Where can I offer grace freely? Who needs my compassion and companionship? Where are there tables that need to be turned, and healing of body, mind and spirit that can be embraced? Who are those that no one else sees, but can be fully loved? That's the kind of faith connection to life I hope we embrace together in the coming years. I hope we will be intentional in the connections we make so our life action reflects the heart of God in all we say and do.

In addition to personal reflection, I hope we stay informed about upcoming trends to inspire fresh ideas. What "fresh things" might we welcome in order to experience the joy of some things which have never been? Incorporating such trends into our personal lives and faith environment can provide a sense of renewal and inspiration as we take God's hand and embrace the love and potential before us.

May we choose to love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves in our journey of faith. We are St. John's UCC, Fullerton, and...

"We Worship, We Love and We Serve ~ No Matter What!"

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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On The Cover...



RICK BORGMAN

Hi. My name is George (Rick) Borgman and along with my wife Roberta and son Mike, we joined St John's UCC in July 2023.

We lived in New Tripoli for 38 years, belonging to Ziegels Lutheran church, a Union church that was such a wonderful experience! I sang in a quartet, Union Soundz, along with Pastor Dave Mohr where we traveled all over Pennsylvania. Two members were Lutheran and two were UCC. We even made a recording!

When we moved to Whitehall 10 years ago we thought we could still go to Ziegels but weather, aging etc. made it impossible and we missed our faith connection. We came to St John's thru our friend Susan, visiting a few times and finally made a commitment. We are thankful for that decision. At Ziegels, I was active in choir, council, etc.

I am married to my wife Roberta 61 years, we eloped to South Carolina...what was I thinking? Her father was an Allentown policeman. We have two fantastic grown children Michael and Michele. Two grandchildren, Noah Michael and Tessa and two beautiful great grandchildren Zoey, age five and Aiden 11 months. We are blessed, grateful and happy to belong to the St John's family.

Deadline for February Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the February newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, January 12.

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

[Updated style guidelines here](#)

Music at St. John's

Sounding the Seasons

By Malcolm Guite

**Tangled in time, we go by hints and guesses,
Turning the wheel of each returning year.
But in the midst of failures and successes
We sometimes glimpse the Love that casts out fear.
Sometimes the heart remembers its own reasons
And beats a Sanctus as we sing our story,
Tracing the threads of grace, sounding the seasons
That lead at last through time to timeless glory.
From the first yearning for a Saviour's birth
To the full joy of knowing sins forgiven
We start our journey here on God's good earth
To catch an echo of the choirs of heaven.
I send these out, returning what was lent,
Turning to praise each 'moment's monument'.**

Wishing a happy, healthy and blessed New Year to all!

Patrick



Sunday Socials For 2025

Sharing With Friends After Worship


Every week following worship, we have opportunity to connect with our faith community in new ways. Our gathering time after worship continues to meet vital needs - to build relationships and understanding - to welcome people to discover a more open circle of connection. We love the time to visit around the tables and enjoy good food. It always blesses us to visit with different people and get to know new friends.

Our Sunday Social events following worship provide the perfect opportunity to put a name and face together and get to know one another better. Come to Fox Hall following worship and share in the food and fun.

Host a Sunday Social as an individual, family or group by signing up on the sheet located on the red display board at the back of the sanctuary. No elaborate food is needed. Our gatherings have been both simple and extravagant. Some have had themes, while others simply brought out old favorites to share with coffee, juice and conversation, the savory and healthy and the sweet and indulgent.

Please take a look for available Sundays as we begin 2025 and sign up to help. Invite someone to partner with you. If you have enjoyed the love and efforts of others, consider signing up with a friend to help share this experience, or call the church office and let Alison know what Sunday you want to provide refreshments. Colleen Kulhamer is always happy to help orient you in the Church kitchen.





FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

for Children, Youth & Adults & Worship Celebrations!

Here's what we have to look forward to as we engage in faith formation and worship together.

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - The Friendship Sunday School Class meets in Rm 201, to accommodate those with physical mobility needs. All are welcome to topical studies, biblical reflection and group discussion, led by various class members. Anyone needing assistance, please use the Grape Street elevator entrance and come to the sanctuary level. There's always great conversation and some tasty treats to start your Sunday morning well! Contact Tom and Emilie Moyer for more information.

9:10-9:25 Expanding Hospitality with Pre-Service Beverages

Our "Welcome to St. John's" begins long before people come inside the building. However, we want to be sure to add some "warm welcome" to the winter months. For Advent, we shared coffee and hot chocolate to welcome each other to worship. This will continue during the season of Christmas and into the winter months of 2025! We want to welcome our worship participants with a warm beverage option before worship as well as our Sunday Social time following worship. As you arrive during this season, come enjoy a cup of coffee, hot tea or hot chocolate!

FRIENDLY REMINDER: BE SURE TO GET A LID TO AVOID SPILLS!

Come to worship and let your body be warmed in our fellowship and friendship together.

If you're interested in being a Hospitality Helper BEFORE worship, please contact Kay Chryst, or add your name to the sign up sheet on the red display board in the foyer.

9:30am Children's Faith Formation Children gather with the congregation in worship through the Children's message, then are let to Room 101 and our "mini theater" room for the weekly topic lesson. "HOLY MOLY" is our curriculum theme this year! We believe our children are blessings, and we want them to grow in our love and the love of God. Please see our "HOLY MOLY" article for more details or contact Rev. Becca Stephens or Wendy Fox.

The children's table is set up in the Parlor for activity if desired for those who choose to remain during worship with parent supervision for any children not participating in regular faith formation activities. "Kids Busy Bags" are also available at the welcome table.

REMINDER TO PARENTS FOR COMMUNION SUNDAYS.

Children who attend "Holy Moly" on the 1st Sunday of the month when the congregation celebrates the sacrament of Holy Communion will be brought back to the sanctuary to join their family in worship. We know some parents welcome their children participating in the sacrament. Others want their children to wait until they are confirmed or until they have a stronger understanding of the meaning of this sacred meal of love and grace.

At St. John's UCC, Fullerton, we observe an OPEN Communion Table, which means that ALL PERSONS, regardless of age or full understanding of the sacrament, are welcome to receive. After all, how many of us as adults in our faith can fully express or explain the significance of this sacred meal. Children will have an abbreviated lesson on the first Sunday of the month to accommodate their participation in Holy Communion, as those who observe in participation or as those who receive in participation. We have both wine and grape juice in the trays to meet the needs of all.

9:30am Morning Worship - Our faith community gathers to Worship, Love and Serve every Sunday morning! We have a place for you, one and all, and YOU ARE... WELCOME HERE! We have created places in the congregational seating for those with mobility issues and assistance support. We are working to make our spaces and worship experience more accessible for everyone, including those with hearing impairment.

Join us each week in the gathering spaces, the classrooms, the sanctuary, online, and with Sunday Social time following worship in Fox Hall. We welcome you in to the experience of God's love through St. John's.

11am Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th Graders - Affirming Faith through Confirmation Class held in the third-floor Youth Room.

ALL YOUTH are welcome to come to the youth room during our Sunday Social time and share with our Confirmation Class as well as spend time with other youth and grow in your faith.

Confirmation Class participants will be visiting with you during our Sunday Social time. Please look for Nicholas Santee, Aiden Hannis and Lucas Williams in the minutes before we move to our class sessions each week, or on 4th Sundays when they generally have more time to connect with the congregation. Express your thanks for their worship participation and leadership. Join them in the journey of discovery to affirm their faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Confirmation sessions continue through the end of May with class lessons, worship experiences, service projects, church life, and learning with friends, leaders and mentors. These young men will look to YOU, the people of St. John's, to model what faith looks like. They will witness how you WORSHIP, LOVE and SERVE to create your own "No Matter What" kind of faith. What we live before them matters every single day!

As we make this Affirming Faith journey together, you are invited to pray for them by name, to share your encouragement with them. Get to know these guys and help them know who we are and how our lives have been changed in the love of God.



Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel
Larry Albright
Phyllis Ambearle
Anita Beil
Clarence Biehn
Sandra Diefenderfer
Shirley Downing
Jeanne Fischl
Milton Focht
Sally Gibson
Ron Glass

Gus Geissinger
Roberta Haberern
Lucille Hicks
Geraldine Keim
Adrianne Kiesbar
Emma Repp Kuczek
Jean Litzenberger
Bill Meckes
Gayle Mihulec
Dale Millham
Karen Moyer

Mary Jane Ott
Marilyn (Jean) Piskula
Helen Ryer
Madeline Slivka
Bert Smith
Leona Snyder
Nancy Weaver
Bonnie Weikel
Arline Yoder

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



2024 Year End - YOU Make the Difference

Dear Friends,

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect with deep gratitude on our year of life and ministry together. This year has taught us that living faithfully is not just about belief, but about action — about showing up for each other, for God, and for our community. Together, we are building a world of love, hope, and justice. This is holy and needed work we share.

As the Advent season, Christmas and year of 2024 come to a close, we are mindful that many are facing great challenges. Whether it's insecurity around basic necessities like food and warm clothing, or the stress of a difficult political climate, we carry concerns for ourselves and for our neighbors. Yet, this season and close of one year and welcoming another invites us to pause and reflect on God's greatest gift — Jesus, God with us — whose light continues to guide us in living faithfully, loving radically, and serving boldly. In Christ, we hold onto hope and we take his hand to follow in faith.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Consistory leaders come to you with a pressing concern: Our financial giving this year has not met the needs required to sustain our vital ministries and programs. We believe we will end 2024 with a deficit of approximately \$4,500 for 2024. We have been sharing this concern and need since last summer and into the fall. Our Treasurer recently reminded us of the ease of what could be possible to return us to a more secure financial outlook. We are talking about what most would see as a "small increase" each week in our contributions.

We have worked hard to keep our expenses well managed and are grateful for our pastor and staff all doing their part to work with the resources we have available. With great humility and deep gratitude, we ask for your support to help us finish the year strong. Your year-end gift will help us carry our mission into 2025, ensuring we can continue making a meaningful impact in the world. No gift is too small, and every contribution makes a difference.

As we celebrate Christmas and look ahead to the New Year, we do so with hope and anticipation, knowing that, together, we can

continue to be a beacon of light in our community and beyond. We are called to be people of Epiphany and "LET LIGHT SHINE!" We are incredibly grateful for your support and excited to continue this journey of faithful living with you.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. May this season bring you hope, peace, joy and love as we welcome the Light of the world to our lives with renewed faith.

Yours together as we worship, we love and we serve,

The Stewardship and Finance Committee
The St. John's Consistory leadership
Rev. Steve Davis



The next Lady PEEPS Women's Group meeting will be Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. January is World Holocaust Remembrance month and we have invited back Jeanette Eichenwald to tell the story of how her father survived his imprisonment in one of the camps.

Jeanette Eichenwald is the co-founder of the Yachad University, which is a Lehigh Valley Jewish Education Institution. This lifelong educator whose resume includes president and executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, former principal of Keneseth Israel Religious School, teacher and former Allentown City Council member. She has many awards and accolades and has helped educate many Jewish young people. Jeanette is one of the best public speakers that I have ever heard. Ladies come join us and hear her incredible story. Refreshments will be served and please use the elevator entrance.

**PEEPS STANDS FOR POSITIVE - EXTRAORDINARY -
 ENCOURAGING - PRAYERFUL - SISTERS!**

January Worship Series - "LET LIGHT SHINE"

As the days of winter and the new year open a bit more light to us with each passing day, our theme for worship in January will focus on our light and the hope we have because of God's love for us. We have Jesus, the "Light of the world," with us to guide us in faith.



JANUARY 5

Epiphany Celebration with Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12,

John 1:1-5, 10-14 and Matthew 2:1-12

"Let Light Shine! The Candle Always Wins"

The tradition of candles in the windows has long been a sign of hope, welcoming strangers to a safe place, and reminding others of our hospitality. In colonial America, a candle in the window—where homes were often spread out—served as a guiding light for travelers who relied on the kindness of strangers for rest and nourishment. A lit candle indicated that a home was open to visitors, offering food and shelter. This simple gesture of illumination cut through the darkness, symbolizing warmth, trust, and the assurance of finding help in unfamiliar surroundings. Across cultures and generations, the gentle glow of a candle has continued to convey that same message of compassion and connection. Come experience Light and hope with us!

JANUARY 12

Baptismal Renewal Celebration

Consecration of Consistory Leadership for 2025 - 2027

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29,

Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

“Let Light Shine! Filled with Expectation”

Water can change even the most persistent obstructions and break open new paths for energy and hope to flow. Light does the same in life's challenges and uncertainties. As we remember our baptism and place in the family of God, may we be those who let the Light of the world shine through us. Come experience Light and hope with us!

JANUARY 19

Martin Luther King, Jr Sunday

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10,

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

“Let Light Shine! Gifts of New Wine”

Each of us has the Spirit of God at work in our lives, in order to improve the circumstances of others in the world around us. While we may “dream of a day when...,” the Spirit of God reminds us that we have the power to change lives with the new wine our faith brings. Come experience Light and hope with us!

JANUARY 26

Health and Human Service Sunday

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1

Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

“Let Light Shine! This Little Light of Mine”

Jesus knew the Spirit of God was writing a new chapter in his life mission. Like his call to ministry, we each have a role to play in the Body of Christ. Paul reminds us that our lives are designed to work in concert with others to create a whole and healthy life together. So whatever your candle may be saying to you about your own “limited ability,” know that you are called to shine! Come experience Light and hope with us!

Giving, Shopping, and Supporting Our Ministries —All Made Easy

In response to your requests for more convenience and flexibility, St. John's UCC is introducing several new ways to support our ministries, participate in our programs, and make everyday purchases that benefit our church community. We've heard your feedback: you want simpler, more secure methods to give, contribute, and get involved. Now, with just a few steps, you can make an impact—whether you're signing up for special events or doing your weekly grocery shopping.

A NEW WAY TO GIVE AND PURCHASE

We are pleased to offer credit and debit card payment options for our many activities and opportunities. Through our secure, encrypted systems onsite and via our website, you can now use your card to purchase Giant and Weis gift cards, IronPigs game tickets, bus trips, candies, pasties, nuts, flowers, or even bingo tickets. Speak with Alison, Michelle, Tom, Carol, or Pastor Steve, and they will help get you started. This streamlined approach puts more choices at your fingertips, making it easier than ever to support St. John's.



UNDERSTANDING THE COSTS OF CONVENIENCE

Providing this added convenience does come at a cost. Like any retailer or organization that accepts card payments, St. John's incurs transaction and processing fees. For most major cards, there is a \$0.45 transaction fee and a 2.85% processing fee. American Express carries a slightly higher processing fee of 3.5%. Previously, the church absorbed these costs. To sustain these services, we kindly ask that you cover the transaction fee and processing percentage as part of your payment. By doing so, you help ensure that the funds raised go directly to supporting our ministries rather than covering administrative expenses.

GROCERY SHOPPING THAT GIVES BACK

Beyond using your cards for church-related activities, there's another simple way to contribute: your routine trips to the grocery

store. When you buy Giant and Weis gift cards through the church, St. John's receives 5% back on each purchase—while you still earn your usual gas and store rewards. Gift cards can be obtained from the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler before or after Sunday worship.

If you frequent Redner's, you can help even more by saving your register tapes. Through Redner's "Save-A-Tape" program, St. John's receives 1% back on every eligible receipt. Simply mail your tapes to the church office or place them in the collection jar in our lounge area. It's a small step that quickly adds up, turning your everyday errands into ongoing support.

STRENGTHENING MINISTRIES THROUGH YOUR INVOLVEMENT

All of these options—using credit and debit cards for direct purchases, buying grocery gift cards, and saving Redner's tapes—offer convenient avenues to strengthen our church's ministries. Your participation ensures that we continue to grow, serve our neighbors, and nurture the spiritual life of our community. By embracing these new methods, you help St. John's maintain its commitment to faithful ministry and responsible stewardship.

Thank you for your understanding, your support, and your dedication to St. John's UCC. Your generosity and willingness to share in these costs and programs are what allow us to remain a vibrant, welcoming congregation that makes a difference every day.

Help Take Down Holiday Decorations!

The holiday season has come to a close, and it's time to say goodbye to the beautiful decorations that have graced our church. With sincere gratitude to all who contributed to creating such a festive and welcoming atmosphere, your time, talent, and dedication have truly made a difference... Thank You!

We now need everyone's help to take down the decorations on Sunday, January 5, following Social Hour.

Your assistance will ensure that our church is ready for the new year. Please join us and help us return our space to its regular appearance.

Help Us Thrive In 2025!

Because of You!

At our Fall Congregational Meeting we approved a new budget for 2025 with the full understanding of what is required of us to meet our goals of sustaining and expanding our ministry opportunities. Week after week, Pastor Steve has shared in worship examples of how our generosity is changing lives. Our goal each month has been to meet or exceed \$22,500 in monthly offering donations. To do this, Sue Weldner, our Treasurer, shared how our collective increase of a few dollars will make a big difference. With a projected deficit in 2024, we are asking everyone to consider increasing your generous support by 4%. So, if you give \$25 each week, you increase it to \$26. If you give \$50 each week, you increase it to \$52. These small increases may not be possible for everyone, but we believe most all of us who regularly participate in worship can make this adjustment for 2025.

Because of you... we've grown our ministry activities in exciting ways. Yet we still need to grow our participation and financial support in 2025 in order to expand our outreach to children and youth, to more effectively serve our homebound members, and to develop new ways of connecting with others in our community. We can create a different way forward... because of YOU!



Please consider becoming an "Automatic Contributor" through your giving if you do not do so already. Michelle Gutekunst and others will be happy to help you get that transaction process set up. It's easy and reliable, and most importantly, consistent support for our ministry.



St. Johns Kitchen Corner

Welcome back to St. John's kitchen tour. Let's talk about the kitchen counters. Under the cabinets at the far left end there is a big can opener which can be used to open large metal cans. Behind it are 2 black cases with hardware tools. Next to that is My Personal Red Bag of kitchen odds and ends. On top of it are baking

pan size sheets of parchment paper which can be used as needed. A toaster oven/air fryer appears as we continue down the counter. This appliance can be used to toast, air fry or bake. The instruction booklet is generally on top of it.

The supply of decaf and regular coffee follows and this leads us to the coffee makers. The Keurig and the Ninja coffee makers can both make single cup coffee and tea OR pots of coffee. I have posted lengthy instructions on how to use both of these when making pots of coffee. Many are intimidated by these very friendly and easy going machines. But do not be afraid! I promise they are very user friendly. All you need is WATER, A FILTER, COFFEE GROUNDS and ELECTRICITY. The filters are in the drawer and both pots take 3/4 cup of coffee grounds for a full pot. I usually have the measure cup right in the coffee cans. All usage instructions are posted directly above the coffee makers. Not to worry...I will continue to make all the coffee for Sunday Social Hour and I am also happy to train you at any time. At the end of this counter is our new and improved microwave oven. At the other end of the window counter top you will find the electric coffee pot warmer.

Until next time, remember to keep St. John's kitchen a happy place.

Colleen - the kitchen manager

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Inclement Weather Notices

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter

Office closed -
7:00pm SAA-Recovery
302

5	6	7	8
Due date for Annual Report 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class		9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship and Finance	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm STARs Com 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery 302
12	13	14	15
Newsletter deadline 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	11:00am Dine & Donate-Red Robin	1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery 302
19	20	21	22
8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	Office closed-Martin Luther King 6:00pm "Fun-raising" Committee	9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEEPS	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery 302
26	27	28	29
8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour		1:30pm Staff Meeting	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery 302

ay 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day every Support-Room	2 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Mission Committee	3	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast at HamFam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
8 with Pastor Steve Group Group Committee Meeting x Hall every Support-Room	9 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir	10	11 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
5 with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall every Support-Room	16 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir	17	18 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
12 with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall every Support-Room	23 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	24	25 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
19 with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall every Support-Room	30 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir	31	



God Is Still Speaking...

with Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9am

The lectionary readings to prepare us for the season of Epiphany guide us this January and into February. Using the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Sunday worship services,

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

Verso-Chat helps us experience the beloved community of God and the Spirit of God speaking to us and through us.

Our weekly studies continue on Wednesday mornings, exploring the scriptures which always help us to discover our “still speaking” God. Verso-Chat is another great Faith Formation option to help us grow. Maybe you’re not a “Sunday School” person or don’t feel like you know much about the Bible. Questions are welcomed in our study time! We laugh! We learn! We grow in our faith together! We welcome you to this time of sharing with us.

ALL are welcome to enhance your experience of worship by joining our weekly Verso-Chat Bible Study. Each week is its own contained experience to discover God’s “still speaking” words. You will find the “Verso Chat” LINK BELOW and on the website to participate. Let’s study and chat about the verses of scripture together!



VERSO-CHAT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571428042>

Pastie Sale

It’s time for our spring Pastie Sale. These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl and come frozen. If you don’t have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. We have two new additions this time. You can choose from the following:

Item	Description	Size	Cost
Traditional Beef	Ground beef, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.25
Beef (no onion)	Ground beef, potatoes	12 oz.	\$7.25
Traditional Chicken	Chicken, peas, carrots, potatoes, onions, gravy	12 oz.	\$7.25
Italian Sausage	Pork sausage, green peppers, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.25
Traditional Ham	Naturally-smoked ham, onions, cheddar cheese, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.25
Chicken Cordon Bleu	Chicken, Swiss & American cheese, ham, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$8.25
Cheeseburger	Burger, American cheese, onions, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.25
Philly Cheese Steak	Steak, potatoes, pepper, American cheese, onions	12 oz.	\$8.25
Mexican	Beef, beans, cheddar cheese, onions, peppers, tomato, taco sauce	12 oz.	\$8.25
Pizza	Pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions, mozzarella cheese, pizza sauce	12 oz.	\$8.25
Veggie Melt Pastie	Peas, carrots, corn, green beans, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cheddar	12 oz.	\$7.25
Spinach Melt Pastie	Spinach, potatoes, onions, cheddar cheese	12 oz.	\$7.25
Fruit Turnover Pastie	Choose from apple, cherry, or blueberry	6 oz.	\$4.25

An order form is included with this newsletter and also [on the church's website](#) or on the table in the lounge area. Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, March 27, or Sunday, March 30. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, February 23. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or craszler@aol.com.

St. John's Property Committee Needs You

Are you handy with a paintbrush, have a knack for organizing, or simply want to help maintain and improve our beautiful church space? St. John's Property Committee is looking for new members to assist with an array of tasks, both big and small. Whether it's painting the sanctuary walls, helping with routine maintenance, or discussing ways to enhance our facilities, your time and talents can make a meaningful difference. By joining our committee, you'll play a vital role in ensuring that our church grounds remain safe, functional, and welcoming for all.

Everyone's schedule is different, so don't worry about a huge time commitment. Even a few hours of assistance here and there can help us complete essential projects and keep costs down. Your unique skills and fresh perspective are invaluable, and by pitching in, you can foster a deeper connection to our church community. Please consider becoming part of this wonderful team, and together, let's help St. John's shine! Email Wayne Lichtenwalner: wlichtenwalner@gmail.com

Join the Bucket Brigade

Hurricanes Helene & Milton Disaster Relief

Just weeks apart in September and into October, two powerful hurricanes battered the southeastern United States, causing widespread devastation and impacting countless lives and communities. Over 250 people have perished; towns, homes, and businesses were destroyed; roads and bridges were wiped out; and people were left without shelter, water and electricity.

Along with three other churches, we continue to collect items for Church World Service's Emergency Cleanup Bucket Kits. Our commitment at St. John's is to collect the following items:

- 5-gallon clean-up bucket with resealable lid (if used, please scrub clean). No buckets that held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid.
- Scrub brush with or without a handle.
- 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent. Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes are also acceptable.
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves. Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple use.

Donated items can be placed in the basket and on the table in the coatroom area by the sanctuary.

In addition, you can also make a monetary donation for UCC Disaster Ministries with checks payable to St. John's. Contributions can be sent to the church office, put in the offering plate, made online or by text. Be sure to put Hurricane Relief in the memo section.



“SaveAround Lehigh Valley” Books

Savings for a Whole Year

These coupon books contain hundreds of buy one get one free; 50% off; plus many more discount offers; and includes a 12-month Savings App with over 400,000 of additional local and national offers...save on the go. It features the most popular merchants locally.



Whether you are shopping for restaurants (dining and fast food), food, clothing, sporting goods, fun and recreation activities, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, the SaveAround coupons make life more affordable and helps St. John's raise funds for the church. A sample copy for you to view can be found on the table in the lounge area.

The cost of the coupon book is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to St. John's. Books can be purchased through the church office or see Carol Raszler any Sunday before or after worship.

Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **January 4 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email QVRRBold@aol.com

Church Family Feud and Tailgate Party



Get ready to celebrate Super Bowl weekend in style at St. John's! On Saturday, February 8, we'll kick off the festivities at 6pm with a hearty meal of chili, cornbread, dessert, and beverages. After dinner, we'll form teams and play an energetic round of "Church Family Feud," the popular TV-style game where everyone has a blast trying to guess the most common survey answers.

Wear your favorite football team's gear to show your spirit! We also ask that everyone bring a can of soup to support our Souper Bowl of Caring hunger drive. A sign-up sheet is posted in the lounge or you can contact the church office to let us know how many will be attending and if you'd like to donate any meal items. Join us for good food, fun competition, and fellowship as we gear up for game day!



Souper Bowl of Caring: Help Tackle Hunger



This year, Super Bowl LIX will be played on Sunday, February 9. While people gather for football and fun, the “Souper Bowl of Caring” invites us to remember those without even a bowl of soup to eat. Since 1990, this effort has raised over \$198 million for local charities, transforming the excitement of Super Bowl weekend into a nationwide movement to fight hunger.

At St. John’s, we’re joining the cause. Throughout January and into early February, please bring cans of soup to be placed in the collection area near the sanctuary. Our goal is to gather 250 cans for the Whitehall Food Pantry. On Sunday, February 9, members of our Confirmation Class will have soup pots to collect any monetary donations. Let’s unite around this simple idea: by sharing our abundance, we can make a real difference in our community. Be part of the winning team as we help tackle hunger!



Discussion Series

What is the purpose and importance of my life?

What kind of a person at age 59 would go back to school in the midst of work and family duties to prepare to be an associate in ministry? Especially with a mind that does not work as well as it did at 29 -well, Miichaet Agrippine is!

Mike will be leading a discussion series using the scriptures of Matthew and Jeremiah to discuss: what is the purpose and meaning of my life? How do I want to be remembered after I leave this world? How did I serve God and others? What of my achievements hold lasting value?

Mike is a student with Pathways (a UCC-sponsored ministry training program). He is seeking to get certified as an associate in ministry. This is a good forum to help him get his feet wet and a great time for talking, learning and establishing some fellowship with each of us. Mike would benefit greatly by hearing your ideas and getting your feedback as he prepares himself for future work in the church.

Please sign up for the three-part series after worship in Room 201 on Sundays - January 12, 19 and 26. It will be a great chance to learn from each other and explore our purposes, our mission and our ministry in this life.

And there will be coffee and donuts! We'd love to have 8-10 people commit to attending if possible.

Thank You

Dear St. John's UCC Fullerton,

We wanted to thank you for all of your very generous donations of school supplies this school year! When we have new students come to our school, they are given a backpack and some supplies to get them started. We are also able to support students' needs throughout the year as they arise. Thank you for making a difference in our schools.

Fondly,
Zephyr Elementary School

Upcoming “Fun-Raising” Events at St. John’s

Monday, January 13 – Dine & Donate at Red Robin – Located at 4688 Broadway, Allentown (Tilghman Square Shopping Center) from 11am to 10pm. No flyer needed. 20% of sales (excluding adult beverages) comes back to St. John’s.

Saturday, February 8 – Souper Bowl Tailgate Party & Church Family Feud Night – 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. Wear clothing of your favorite football team. Menu includes chili, cornbread, dessert, and beverage followed by teams playing Family Feud. Bring a can of soup for “Souper Bowl of Caring” to support the Whitehall Food Pantry. Signup sheet in lounge area or call the church office.

Sunday, February 23 – Pastie Sale Order Deadline – Order forms available on church website or on table in lounge area. See Carol.

Friday, February 28 – Mardi Gras Gift Card Bingo – Doors open at 6pm with games beginning at 7pm. Food available to purchase. Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets available through office or see Tom.

Sunday, March 16 – Phantoms Hockey – Game starts at 3:05pm at PPL Center with Phantoms vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. Tickets cost \$27 per person. See Brian Fisher.

Thursday, March 27 & Sunday, March 30 – Pastie Sale pickup Thursday 6pm to 8pm & Sunday after worship in Fox Hall. See Carol.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – SOLD OUT.

SaveAround Lehigh Valley Coupon Books 2025 – Discounts to restaurants (dining and fast-food), stores, sporting goods, fun recreation, reliable services, hotels, car rentals, etc. Cost \$25. Good all year. See Carol.

Giant & Weis Gift Cards – Church gets 5% back. See Tom or Carol.

Redner’s Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. See Karen.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Mike Borgman (610) 762-8959 (Chairperson)

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746
Amy Feidler	(835) 210-5944	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134		

Women's Retreat: "There Are Angels Among Us"

This past November, thirty women from St. John's came together at the Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center in Mt. Bethel, PA, to share in a spirit-led weekend of reflection, fellowship, and fun. Held from November 22 through November 24—just before Thanksgiving—the Women's Retreat offered a meaningful opportunity to rest, connect, and explore how we can be "Angels Among Us."

Under the guidance of Pastor Emerita Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, former church secretary Susan Kuder, and PEEPS leader Colleen Kulhamer, participants delved into biblical passages on angels. In small groups, they discussed selected scriptures, examining the ways angels appear in God's story and considering how we, too, can act as God's messengers. The leaders created a safe, welcoming environment where everyone could share freely—be it personal experiences, beliefs, doubts, laughter, or tears—without judgment.

"The retreat was filled with sharing, listening, tears, laughter, and love," said Pastor Becky. "Differences of opinions were safely shared and discussed without malice. Conversations happened about what we are supposed to believe and what we do believe. It became a weekend to lift each other up without judgment or put downs." Stories of angelic encounters touched many hearts, inspiring participants to become "angels" for one another.

This spirit of togetherness extended beyond the study sessions. There were moments for worship, devotions, communion, singing, and even a bit of dancing—Susan and Colleen delighted everyone as dancing and singing "angels." Laughter echoed through the halls during silly games, and songs were lifted in praise around an indoor "campfire." Throughout the weekend, the women also enjoyed walking along the scenic river and sampling a wide variety of snacks and baked goods, including a memorable 16-foot table overflowing with treats. As one participant joked, "A girl gets hungry!"

Women traveled from near and far to be part of this special experience. Margaret Baatz and her daughter Tammy even journeyed from Grantsville, Maryland, to join the gathering. Each participant's presence enriched the community spirit, as they formed

new friendships, deepened their faith, and found common ground—even in their differences.

In addition, the retreat received notable recognition beyond the church community. On December 7, Pastor Becky's reflection on the weekend appeared in the Morning Call's "Faith and Values" column. Inspired by Isaiah 6:6-8, Pastor Becky discussed how angels are portrayed in Scripture, how we can serve as God's angels in our daily lives, and how simple acts of kindness, attentive listening, and supportive presence can make a profound impact. The full article can be found at www.mcall.com/2024/12/07/faith-values-retreat, though a subscription may be required.

As the weekend drew to a close, everyone left feeling renewed and inspired—more aware of the angels that walk among us and more committed to living as God's messengers here on earth. In the words of one attendee, "It was a good weekend!"



January Birthdays

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

1/2.....	Patricia Thompson	1/15	Jacob Hannis
1/3.....	Chace Miller	1/16	Kimberly Hannis
	Carole O'Connell	1/18	Lori Stocker
	Guy Schwen	1/19	Jillian Sommer
	DonnaLee Yeatts	1/20	Lorraine Hower
1/4	Susan Rarich	1/23	Dorothea Biehn
1/5	Nathaniel Kuhns	1/25	Natalie Schutts
	Georgine Long		Betty Shankweiler
1/6	Christina Bach		Matthew Sommer
	Doris Hunsicker	1/26	Robert Jones
1/7	Milton Focht		Olivia Powell
1/8	David Fritzinger Jr.	1/28	Edward Pollitt
	Karly Myers		George Romberger
1/9	Brenda Pascoe	1/29	Larry Martin
1/10	Emilie Moyer		Paul Raszler
1/13	Clarence Biehn	1/31	Rev John Hoff
	Lucas Daiello		Ronald Patterson
	Brian Deutsch		Philip Robinson
	Cathy Kuhns		



January Wedding Anniversaries

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

1/24/2009

Philip & Michele Robinson

1/24/1970

Carole & Dennis O'Connell



Dine & Donate at Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews

Be sure to put this on your calendar and come to the Dine & Donate event at Red Robin located at 4688 Broadway, Allentown (Tilghman Square Shopping Center). It is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025 from 11am to 10pm.

Menu items include over 25 delicious gourmet burgers, appetizers, sandwiches, wraps, salads, entrees, sides, desserts, and beverages.

No flyer is needed but be sure to tell the server you are from St. John's. The church will receive 20% back from the sales (excluding adult beverages).



Start Off the New Year by Helping at the Food Pantry

St. John's has made a commitment to help at the Whitehall Food Pantry on the 4th Monday of every month. Volunteers are needed in the morning from 9am to 11am to sort food supplies and stock shelves. Volunteers are also needed in the evening from 5:30pm to 7:30pm to distribute food to pantry clients. The Whitehall Food Pantry is located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall. If you would like to help or learn more about the food pantry, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com. Gary said volunteers are urgently needed—you'll find this outreach both rewarding and a fun experience.

Thank you to everyone who donated monetary contributions and food items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals at the food pantry.

"Souper Bowl of Caring"

As football's Super Bowl is approaching and for the month of January up to Super Bowl Sunday on February 9, we are collecting cans of soup for the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive. Our goal is to collect 250 cans of soup. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted as well and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given by online or text giving. All donations will go to the Whitehall Food Pantry.

Did you know that:

- Over 47 million people in America or 1 in 7 households experience food insecurity. That means they have no access to a nutritious, affordable diet or know where their next meal will come from.
- 14 million children in America or 1 in 5 households experience food hunger.
- More than 50 million people in America turn to food assistance programs (food pantries, food banks, community organizations, etc.) for extra help.

Be sure to read the [articles in this newsletter](#) about our Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Family Feud Night on Saturday, February 8, from 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. A meal is included followed by teams competing on Family Feud. Activities will continue on to Super Bowl Sunday where the Confirmation Class will have soup pots available for you to contribute financially. For both events, wear clothing of your favorite football team and bring a can of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring."

Don't Forget to Join the Bucket Brigade

We continue to collect items for Church World Service's Emergency Clean Up Bucket Kits to help the victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Be sure to read the article in this newsletter as to what items are needed. In addition, we are also accepting monetary contributions which will be forwarded to UCC Disaster Ministries. Special offering envelopes for General Disaster Relief can be found on the table in the lounge area. Checks should be made payable to St. John's with Hurricane Relief in the memo section.

"Ho-Ho-Ho" – You Made Santa Very Happy!

It was truly heartwarming how successful our "Operation Santa" Mitten Tree Project was this year. Thank you for your donations of \$865 to Phoebe Ministries and \$1070 to Valley Youth House for a total of \$1935. Because of you, the youth and their families at VYH received gifts on their wish list, and the residents at Phoebe were given gift certificates to Phoebe's gift shop and to Phoebe's beauty salon/barber shop.

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. WCHI will post a meal reminder on Facebook and Instagram and state if it is an inside sit-down meal, take out, or a version of both. The meal being served will also be posted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Haberern, Program Chair, at (610) 730-3184. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday 1/5	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 So. Fifth St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday 1/21	Whitehall Active Community Center	2301 Pine St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday 2/2	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Sunday 2/18	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

How Did Our St. John's Family Do?

Mission	Nov 2024	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,179.00	\$11,927.00	\$11,758.00	\$13,662.90
The Christmas Fund	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	-0-	-0-
Neighbors in Need	\$ 10.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 334.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 245.00	\$2,900.00	\$ 3,690.00	\$ 1,400.00
General Disaster Relief	\$ 380.00	\$1,009.00	\$ 585.00	N/A
Mitten Tree – Phoebe	\$ 840.00	\$ 865.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 595.00
Mitten Tree – VYH	\$ 900.00	\$1,070.00	\$ 925.00	\$ 655.00
TOTALS	\$3,714.00	\$19,456.00	\$22,935.00	\$22,277.70

Mission Outreach giving for November 2024 totaled \$3,714.00 and YTD giving totaled \$19,456.00.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

We will continue to receive donations for The Christmas Fund until December 31. It is an annual UCC offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need. It provides direct assistance to supplement pensions; helps with the cost of medical insurance; gives thank you gifts at Christmas; and supplies funds to meet emergency needs.

Gathering of the PEEPS

Several of our Lady PEEPS met with Helen Ryer on December 4 for lunch at the City View Restaurant. Helen, a wonderfully interesting lady with strong Christian values and beliefs, joined St. John's a few years ago and immediately became part of the PEEPS Women's Group. Due to health issues, she can no longer attend. However, the PEEPS decided to bring her to lunch and share in some Christmas holiday fun and fellowship as well as celebrate her upcoming birthday. Pictured left to right are:

Regina Hickman, Nancy Keister, Janet Ebert, Regi Mohr, Bobby Pope, Helen Ryer, and Carol Raszler.



St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
Oct 2024

Income	Electronic	10/6/2024	10/13/2024	10/20/2024	10/27/2024	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,183.72	\$2,626.00	\$1,524.00	\$1,807.00	\$1,607.00	\$13,747.72
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,325.50				\$200.00	\$1,525.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$(1,083.73)	\$430.00	\$775.00	\$1,145.00	\$1,640.00	\$2,906.27
Endowment Interest	\$5,898.00					\$5,898.00
Flowers					\$25.00	\$25.00
Christian Education	\$20.00		\$60.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$110.00
Special Gifts						\$-
Total	\$12,343.49	\$3,056.00	\$2,359.00	\$2,967.00	\$3,487.00	\$-

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,219.91	\$10,793.00	\$(573.09)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,797.64	\$9,027.00	\$(229.36)
Property	\$1,900.72	\$2,961.00	\$(1,060.28)
Parish Programs	\$1,229.87	\$2,179.50	\$(949.63)
Total	\$22,148.14	\$24,960.50	\$(2,812.36)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$24,212.49	\$238,629.29
Total Expenses	\$22,148.14	\$246,875.38
Net INCOME	\$2,064.35	\$(8,246.09)

Mission Giving, Oct 2024

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$784.00
Neighbors in Need	\$180.00
Crop Walk	\$30.00
UCC General Disaster Relief	\$569.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$80.00
Total	\$1,643.00

St John's UCC Fullerton
Fund Balances
For Month Ending, Oct 2024

Account	Sep-24	Oct-24	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$31,391.74	\$34,759.56	\$3,367.82
Giant Card Funds	\$808.72	\$1,448.64	\$639.92
Weis Card Funds	\$871.50	\$281.50	\$(590.00)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$33,071.96	\$36,489.70	\$3,417.74
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$52,681.08	\$54,435.85	\$1,754.77
Restricted/Property Investments	\$78,463.00	\$78,679.00	\$216.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$131,144.08	\$133,114.85	\$1,970.77
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$522,418.00	\$506,206.00	\$(16,212.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$686,634.04	\$675,810.55	\$(10,823.49)
Cornerstone Pavilion Loan	\$(82,798.07)	\$(82,671.90)	\$126.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(82,798.07)	\$(82,671.90)	\$126.17
NET FUND BALANCE	\$603,835.97	\$593,138.65	\$(10,697.32)





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575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052 (610) 264-8421

Church Chuckle



The preacher, known for his booming sermons about love thy neighbor, was strolling home after a particularly fluffy snowfall. He spotted Mrs. Higgins, the kindest soul in the congregation, battling her sidewalk with a shovel.

He raised his voice, "Sister Higgins, shouldn't we trust in the Lord to help us weather these wintry trials?"

Mrs. Higgins, pausing to catch her breath, looked up and quipped, "Pastor, I am! God sent this snow, gave me this shovel, and now God sent YOU to use it!"

