

**ROGER  
SCHNECK**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 19 • Issue 165 • June 2026

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## On The Cover...



### ROGER SCHNECK

With the last name of Schneck, you might guess that I live in Schnecksville. My family went to the Lutheran Church and we were very active growing up. Having a church home and being involved was important to me, and has been all my life. I came to be part of St. John's UCC, Fullerton when I met my wife-to-be, Lucille. I was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, just down the street, and she was a member of St. John's Reformed Church. When we knew we wanted to be married,

Pastor Fox officiated our wedding on April 20, 1963, and I have been here ever since. We have been married for 63 years and have 4 adult children, Brenda, Bonnie, Rebecca, and Don.

I worked with Mack Trucks in quality assurance most of my working life. I retired at 62 and enjoy my hobbies: model airplanes, riding my motorcycle, and playing softball. I was on the St. John's church softball team as a player for 40 years and 15 as coach.

I served on the Property Committee for many years. The church pastors often called on me whenever there was a need with the building since I lived closest to the Church. I was a Consistory leader for many years, and part of the Field of Dreams Committee. I am so proud of that accomplishment and love seeing it being used so often. I volunteer at the Whitehall Food Bank too. My favorite thing about St. John's is the relationships I've built over many decades and enjoying good food fellowship time. I love being around our people.

## What's Next? Growing Anticipation!



As we enter the summer months, many of us begin thinking about vacations, family gatherings, longer evenings, and perhaps even a road trip or two. Summer carries a different rhythm. It doesn't necessarily slow down, at least, not around St. John's. There is a sense of movement, of possibility, of wondering what might be waiting just ahead. In many ways, it invites us to live with anticipation.

Lately, the classic television series *The West Wing* has captured much of my late-evening attention. I continue to appreciate the drama, the passion of people working toward a purpose they believe in, and the hopeful spirit woven through its storytelling. One of the memorable lines in the series comes from President Josiah Bartlet, played by Martin Sheen, who frequently asked his staff, "What's next?" It was more than impatience or efficiency. It was a mindset — a readiness to move forward, to stay engaged, and to keep looking ahead with purpose and hope.

That simple question, "What's next?" feels like an important spiritual question for the Church as we enter summer.

The Apostle Paul writes in *Philippians 3:13-14*, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal..." We don't forget as if tossing out our past, but we don't cling to our previous ways or allow ourselves to be entrenched in the rut of habit. Faith has always involved movement.

God continually calls people forward — Abraham toward a new land, the disciples toward unfamiliar places of ministry, and the early Church toward a Spirit-filled future they could scarcely imagine.

Summer can feel a bit like a cross-country road trip. Once again this June, I'll be driving my mom to the mountains of Cloudcroft, NM, in

the southern part of the state. We will drive almost 2,000 miles across many states along the way. There is excitement about the destination, certainly, but also joy in the journey itself. Along the way, the scenery changes. New places appear. Unexpected moments become lasting memories. Every highway sign pointing ahead builds anticipation for what is still to come.

I believe the life of faith works much the same way.

Even in seasons when routines shift and calendar activities change with new events, the Spirit of God continues moving. Summer may offer opportunities for renewal, reconnection, and discovery. We gather for worship, share love for our neighbors and nurture friendships, and remain attentive to serving and being involved in the ways God may be leading us into new experiences of grace and ministry.

The Church itself was born in anticipation. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the disciples waited prayerfully, asking in their own way, "What's next?" Then Pentecost arrived with wind, fire, courage, and a calling that transformed the world. Since then, followers of Jesus have continued living with expectant hearts, trusting that God is always opening new paths before us.

So as we begin this summer season together, may we journey with curiosity, faithfulness, and hope. Stay connected to worship and community. Look for opportunities to show love and encourage others. Pay attention to the unexpected conversations and quiet moments where God so often appears. Serve in ways that share the transformation that comes as we embrace the way of Jesus.

May we continue to tell stories that connect, that heal, and that inspire. And may we become, more and more, a community that reflects the kin-dom of God, not just in what we say, but in how we live.

And together, with hopeful anticipation, as

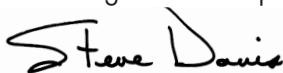
## **We Worship, We Love and We Serve**

**— No Matter What!**

...may we continue to ask, "What's next?"

— No matter what!

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



# Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations!

## Forming Family



The seasons of the Church year share the life of Jesus in the first half of the year with anticipating his birth in Advent, to celebrating God's coming in Jesus to be with us through the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, to the life and ministry of Jesus, with his teaching, miracles, his transforming message that leads us in Lent. Jesus' greatest examples of love and sacrifice are shared with us as Lent moves us into Holy Week and Jesus' death on Good Friday.

The season of Easter brings an eternal hope and joy in Jesus' resurrection and development of his disciples to become people who by the Spirit of Christ would become a new and empowered people. Pentecost takes the stories of Jesus and fills followers with hope that becomes a new and life-transforming community. In the longest of our faith seasons, Pentecost moves from the stories of Jesus to the forming of an eternal family. Forming Family is not just about our biological family, but also about our "chosen family," the people we invite to walk with us and help us become the people who follow Jesus. Forming Family invites us to welcome new people and experiences that create foundational building blocks of faith in our lives, guiding us as we join together in life's challenges and seek to know Joy, Forgiveness, Compassion and Love.

This June, come to the family table and together discover how we create the living body of Jesus by **Forming Family**.

## **Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Confirmation Class**

Our Confirmation collaboration with UCC Greenawalds and Grace UCC, Allentown, has now completed eight months of activities! Time flies with lessons and activities each month helping young people, young adults and mentors, and pastors too, all grow in our faith together. Please pray for the 11 people going through our G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Confirmation Class from the 3 congregations. Pray for our confirmand, Ryan Szoke.

During the summer, the class meets for lessons on the 4th Tuesdays of June, July and August, 6:00–7:30pm. In June we will return to Grace UCC, Allentown for our gathering.

## **Adult Faith Formation Opportunities**

Here are some things you can take part in to grow in faith and celebrate God's presence:

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study  
Wednesdays at 9am on Zoom

Friendship Class

-takes the summer off, but some still show up to enjoy a cup of coffee and good company. Friendship never takes a break, even when we don't see each other every week.



The May PEEPS meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th, will be Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm in Fox Hall when Jean Fennel will speak on essential oils used in biblical times. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 for further details.

## Music at St. John's

St. John's Music Ministry is honored to welcome The Jerusalem Singers on July 26, under the direction of Pete Deshler.

The Jerusalem Singers are a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to public service and the performance of quality choral music.



The Jerusalem Singers were founded in May of 1996 by Pete Deshler. The purpose of the group was to create an ensemble where people of different ages and singing experience could gather together to perform quality choral music at a superior level. In 1998, the Jerusalem Singers began collecting canned food for the New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem, PA as part of their community service efforts. Since 2003, the group has also been performing a benefit concert at the end of every season. For several years, proceeds from this concert have gone to support Satori's "Gift of Music" program. The Jerusalem Singers continue to perform throughout the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas.

Pete Deshler is a composer, music educator, conductor and performer living in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. Pete's music often combines folk and Renaissance melodies with contemporary compositional practices. He has completed commissions for the Lafayette College Concert Band, Allentown Municipal Band, Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem and the Easton Area School District.

Pete began teaching music at Easton Area High School in 1998. His duties have included conducting the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Camerata, Sophomore Women's Choir, teaching Honors Music Theory, Honors Music Theory 2, Advanced Placement Music Theory, Voice Lab and instrumental lessons. He has performed with Lehigh Choral Union, Twin Rivers Choral Society and as a soloist with his wife Marisa. Pete has also been the director of the Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church Men's Choir, the Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church Summer Concert Series, the assistant conductor of the Twin Rivers Choral Society and is a founding member of the Wandering Singers. Pete is the director of the Jerusalem Singers, which he founded in 1996. He is also a member of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra's Composer Collective.



Through music, fellowship, and service, The Jerusalem Singers have touched audiences across the region for nearly three decades. St. John's UCC-Fullerton is pleased to share this special evening of choral music with our community and welcomes all to attend.

## Jerusalem



## Singers

Mark your calendar! Sunday, July 26 - 7pm



# OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## **Starting Pentecost**

Following the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower God's people at Pentecost, we see how the Church grew as people embraced the teaching and example of Jesus through his followers.

## **MAY 24, PENTECOST SUNDAY**

### **Welcoming New Members**

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30;  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21;  
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

### **Stories That Matter: Living the Sequel**

Sermon Scripture Text: Luke 24:44-53 & Acts 2:1-21



*Living the Sequel*

## MAY 31, TRINITY SUNDAY

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8;  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

### Living in the Community of the Trinity

Sermon Scripture Text: John 14:15-21

We worship God with many names and in various experiences of relationship with God. Yet, however we call upon the name of God, we are drawn into a presence, a way of living by which others can tell we are a transformed people because of the God we worship.



### Forming Family Message Series



## JUNE 7, KEYSTONE CONFERENCE IN WORSHIP

Lectionary Readings:  
Genesis 12:1-9 and Psalm 33:1-12;  
Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15;  
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### Forming Family in Joy - Samantha Kistler

Sermon Scripture Text: Romans 4:13-16a

(continued)

Worship, Love and Serve — No Matter What!

## JUNE 14, THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;

Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100;

Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

**Forming Family in Forgiveness - Samantha Kistler**

Sermon Scripture Text: Romans 5:1-8

## JUNE 21, FATHER'S DAY

*(Possible Outdoor Worship at the St. John's Pavilion)*

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;

Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18;

Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

**Forming Family in Compassion - Rev. Steve Davis**

Sermon Scripture Text: Romans 6:1b-11

## JUNE 28, OPEN & AFFIRMING SUNDAY IN THE UCC

*(Possible Outdoor Worship at the St. John's Pavilion)*

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13;

Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;

Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

**Forming Family in Love - Rev. Steve Davis**

Sermon Scripture Text: Romans 6:12-23



## The Keystone Connection



# Keystone

C O N F E R E N C E

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

As we continue growing together as the new Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ, you are warmly invited to discover the many ways congregations and clergy across our shared commonwealth are building relationships, deepening faith, and sharing Christ's hope together at God's welcoming table.

Each week, the KEYSTONE CONNECTION email highlights opportunities for continuing education, congregational support and training, ministry resources, and important news from around the Conference. It is a wonderful way to stay connected to the vibrant and faithful work happening throughout our wider church family.

Take a moment to explore what's happening across the Keystone Conference by using the link below or visiting the website today.

<https://keystoneucc.org>



Use the QR code to receive the weekly email and stay informed!

Here's the link to sign up for the weekly news:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/nKpYydv/TheKeystoneConnection>

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Wrapped in Love, Warmed in Prayer



As you enter worship, you may notice Prayer Shawls and prayer squares near the elevator, coat room, or sometimes resting in the back pews before they are shared with someone in need. Though simple in appearance, each one carries the prayers, compassion, and care of our congregation.

This meaningful ministry offers comfort to those facing illness, grief, loss, or difficult transitions — a reminder that they are remembered, surrounded by prayer, and never alone.

We are grateful for **Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held**, and many others whose caring hands help create these gifts of comfort and

hope. Before being delivered, the shawls are placed near the offering plates so the congregation may bless them in prayer.

#### **You are invited to share in this ministry:**

- Request a shawl for someone in need through the church office.
- Join the ministry if you knit, crochet, quilt, or would like to learn.
- Simply pause and offer a prayer as you notice the shawls in worship.

Together, we continue to wrap one another in prayer, comfort, and the love of Christ.

## **We LOVE — Generosity and Sustaining Our Shared Ministry**

Our world often feels uncertain and constantly changing. We are grateful for the faithful generosity that continues to sustain the ministry of St. John's. Even amid financial pressures affecting many families, this congregation continues to respond with compassion, commitment, and hope.

Thanks to your support, our expenses have remained in line with our budget, and the congregation responded generously to help cover unexpected winter costs. We are deeply thankful.

As we move into the summer months, however, changing schedules and travel often lead to a decline in consistent giving, even while the ministry of the church continues every week. Worship, outreach, pastoral care, programming, and community support do not slow down during the summer season.

For that reason, our Stewardship and Finance Committee and Consistory encourage members and friends of St. John's to consider becoming recurring automatic contributors. Consistent giving helps sustain ministry steadily throughout the year and reduces the need to rely on reserve funds during quieter months.

We also want to clarify that the generous estate gift received from Adrienne Kiesbar is being used only for approved building and infrastructure improvements, not for the church's operating budget. Regular congregational giving remains essential to supporting our ongoing ministry and mission.

If you are not currently signed up for recurring giving, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming an automatic contributor. It is simple, secure, and one meaningful way to help strengthen the ministry we share together.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the work God continues to do through St. John's.

# **The Keystone Conference Inaugural Annual Meeting**

**June 5-7, 2026 Millersville University**

You are warmly invited to participate in the Inaugural Annual Meeting of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ, taking place June 5–7 at Millersville University. Centered on the theme “Joy at the Table Together,” this historic gathering celebrates our new commonwealth of congregations joining in faith, worship, learning, and shared ministry.

Even if you are unable to attend in person, you can still be part of this joyful moment in the life of the church. On Sunday, June 7, the Conference worship service and Service of Consecration will be livestreamed so that congregations across the Keystone Conference may gather together in worship. Join us for worship at St. John’s, then remain afterward as we continue worship together from our own sanctuary with churches and clergy from across the Conference.

Grounded in Acts 2:46–47 — “Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God” — the weekend will celebrate the spirit of connection, hospitality, and hope that shapes our shared ministry in Christ.

The Service of Consecration for the Keystone Conference will be led by Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Featured speakers throughout the weekend will include Marcia McFee, Mary Luti, Greg Edwards, Russell Redding, and Freeman Palmer.

Representing St. John’s and our affirming ministry will be Kirby Hower, Jackie Maxon, Rev. Steve Davis, Bill Castello, and several of our retired clergy members.

Learn more about the Annual Meeting and livestream opportunities through the Keystone Conference Annual Meeting page.

<https://keystoneucc.org>



Use the QR code to register for the conference.

### Happy Retirement Alison!



Alison Boor came to St. John's in June 2022 after working at Northampton Community College. She helped us create a more organized and welcoming environment for the congregation and community as we emerged together after the Covid pandemic. For the last four years, you've heard Alison's friendly voice to help answer questions, and support our ministry in wonderful ways. We will miss her understanding of the faith community

and her spirit of partnership. Our staff has worked together well and appreciated Alison's many gifts and it is with reluctance we bid her a fond farewell as she and her husband, Dave, retire at the same time and begin a new chapter in their lives together.

We will honor Alison together on Sunday, June 28, during our morning worship service. Wayne Lichtenwalner and Linda Powell will be accepting monetary donations from anyone who would like to help acknowledge her dedicated service to our church.

## Flag Day BINGO!

Have you purchased  
your tickets yet?  
Our next gathering  
for BINGO is  
Friday, June 12!



Come join your friends for an evening of fun and fellowship, while hopefully winning a gift card for a local restaurant or store.

See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer for tickets. \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door (If available)

We are in need of the following items for that evening:

- Sponsor a game. \$50
- Tricky Tray items, value between \$20 to \$35
- Baked goods for sale, individually wrapped.
- Bottled water and soda
- Perogie Casserole

See you at BINGO! Good luck!

## Pie Sale Coming Soon

Church member Andie Dallago has offered to make her delicious homemade pies as a fundraiser here at St. John's. You can choose from her Whipped Coconut Cream Pie (\$12) or her Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie (\$14). These pies freeze well. An order form can also be found on the church's website or on the table in the lounge area. Only a total of 50 pies will be made and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. **The deadline for orders and payment is Sunday, May 31.** You can give your order and payment (checks payable to St. John's) to Carol Raszler any Sunday morning or mail it into the church office. Pickup times are Friday, June 19, from 6pm to 8pm or Sunday, June 21, after worship down in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



Use the QR code to reach the order form or:  
<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/forms>

## News from Sister Keystone Conference Churches

St. John's UCC, Mickleys on MacArthur Road in Whitehall will be closing its doors after 177 years of ministry. A community service will be held on Sunday, June 14, at 10am. This will be a celebration of their Past, Present, and Future, which will include Faith Lutheran, Mickleys who was part of St. John's when they were a Union congregation and the Xaris Family Worship who bought the building. The final congregation service will be June 21 at 10am. We cherish the times we spent with St. John's, Mickleys in sharing worship services together as well as with other events.



On May 6, a two-alarm fire broke out at Trinity UCC in Dorseyville, located just northeast of Pittsburgh. The fire started in the back of the building, spread up the wooden trusses supporting the slate roof, and the ceiling in the sanctuary collapsed. Rev. David Mears reported that only he was in the building at the time, and they are waiting for insurance adjusters to learn what may be salvaged. Fortunately, the adjoining Sunday School building was largely spared. Trinity is in the middle of celebrating its 175th anniversary of their congregation. Sadly, they were also celebrating the 150th anniversary of their historic sanctuary, which recently underwent repairs. Our prayers and support reach out to these two UCC congregations.



Cards of love and support can be sent to: Trinity UCC, 3712 Saxonburg Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Monetary donations can be sent to: Keystone Conference, PO Box 6625, Harrisburg, PA 17112 and include Trinity UCC in the memo section.



# June

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
		9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship and Finance	<b>SIGHT &amp; SOUND</b> <b>"JUST"</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recov
<b>7</b> <b>SAMANTHA PREACHES</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 6:30pm Stewardship and Finance	<b>10</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recov
<b>14</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Fun-Raising	<b>16</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 7:00pm Consistory	<b>17</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recov
<b>21</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 8:00am Pie sale pickup 9:30am Sunday Worship	<b>22</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 9:00am Newsletter collating 9:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm PEEPS - Fox Hall	<b>24</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recov
<b>28</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	



# 2026

<b>3</b> <b>GROUND TRIP - "HUA"</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group Group Group	<b>4</b> <b>VISITATION COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>5</b> <b>KEYSTONE CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING</b> through 5/7 - Millersville, PA	<b>6</b> 9:30am Zumba
<b>10</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group Group Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Flag Day Bingo - FOX HALL	<b>13</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba
<b>17</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group Group Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>JUNETEENTH-OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30am Zumba
<b>24</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group Group Group	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Property Committee	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30am Zumba

## Deadline for July Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the June newsletter, please email [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, June 14.

If you have photos to accompany your story, please attach them to your email. Comments and suggestions are always welcome! [Style guide recommendations here](#)

## **What a Great Event!**

Fox Hall was buzzing with excitement on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3, when St. John's Basket Social and Bake Sale took place. Crowds of people came through for the two-day event, enthusiastically hoping to be a lucky winner and to receive at least one of the 113 baskets and gift cards on display.

Co-chairs Amy Feidler and Carol Raszler greeted the 173 visitors as 583 tickets were sold. Our confirmand, Ryan Szoke, with the help of Charlotte Kerrigan, pulled the winning tickets as Pastor Steve announced the winners. There were 69 winners with several people winning multiple baskets or gift cards.

With the assistance of Ginny Brokenshire, Nancy Keister, Jackie Maxon, and June McCracken, people were able to choose from a vast assortment of baked goods. In addition to the many mouth-watering goodies, they were delighted to see those delicious Pennsylvania Dutch favorites like funny cakes, cut-out cookies, and Moravian crumb cakes.

Lori Stocker and her daughter Leia helped in the kitchen to sell assorted beverages as well as hot dogs made by our head chef Bob Czekner.

We are happy to report that this annual fundraiser realized a gross profit of over \$3,300 in sales.

The "Fun-Raising" Committee wishes to thank everyone who came out to show support and purchase tickets; all the bakers; those who gave baskets, gift cards, or monetary contributions; members who helped assemble baskets; the bake sale and kitchen workers; and the crew who set up, tore down, and cleaned up for the event. It was an amazing time at St. John's!

### **Attention: Basket Social Winners**

For anyone who won a basket at the Basket Social: If you don't need that empty basket or container or if there is any item in your basket that you will never use, we would ask you to return them to the church to be used for a future event. Please bring them to the office or to worship and give them to Carol Raszler or Amy Feidler. Thank you.



Customers



Bake Sale Sellers



Kitchen Crew



Announcing and recording winners



Pulling tickets  
-Ryan Szoke



Winner  
-Bill Fink



Winner  
-Nicholas Bach

## Church Projects

St. John's is busy with projects that will make "updates" and "improvements" to our church building and ministries this summer. Already, we have added to our worship with some additional paraments for our altar, pulpit and lectern, a new Christ Candle and base, along with additions to our communion ware. Our choir now have all matching seats with arms to make the "up and down" of worship easier and look cohesive. Other items have been approved that we will enjoy in the Fall and for our coming Advent seasons.

By your direction at our Annual Meeting in February, you tasked the Consistory with the responsibility to authorize use of funds set aside from the Kiesbar Estate gift to complete many projects to improve our building infrastructure. Many of the improvement projects will help us be more energy efficient and save utility expenses for years to come.

In the coming month, we will begin to see some significant changes to:

- Modernize our aging elevator and fire safety systems
- Replace the carpet in the sanctuary, parlor, coat and elevator lobby, church office and hallway
- Install a new hearing assistance loop that will help every person who has hearing aids or implants, or who is in need of hearing support to provide a way to hear directly what is sent through our sound system
- Reflooring the 3rd floor classrooms hall and stairwells, as we have already completed on our 1st floor intermediate level
- Sanctuary and 2nd floor hallways, parlor and elevator / coat room lobby will all have improved LED lighting, and replace the lighting control panel that is age compromised and failing.

During the summer, the construction team for the elevator renovation project estimates that our elevator access will be down for approximately 6 weeks. We will keep the congregation informed about where we can best accommodate worship based on weather

conditions. Some Sunday in June and July, we hope to enjoy worship at the St. John's Pavilion. Some Sundays may be too warm or the weather will not be helpful for our equipment needs and worship comfort. We will do our best to provide meaningful worship in either location, recognizing some may choose to remain at home and enjoy worship online if there are mobility considerations or weather concerns. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these updates are made.

### **Minimal Effort....Maximum Benefit**

Jesus' command came down to one word: "Love".

#### ***How do we do that?***

Opportunities to offer love and compassion are all around us.

For example, we can think of those who may be lonely or feeling forgotten like our Homebound members. Do you have a card, a stamp or a phone? A simple note or a call would show that they haven't been forgotten and are still valued members of St. Johns UCC, Fullerton even if they can no longer attend church services.

I became a member of St. Johns UCC, Fullerton about 6 years ago. I didn't know anyone nor the history of the congregation. When I was asked to be part of the Visitation Committee it seemed like a good way to meet people and to do something positive. Over the years I have established relationships with many of our Homebound members. Sadly a number of them have passed away and I miss them dearly.

I don't know who enjoys our conversations more. Every one of them has a fascinating life story to tell. Without being a member of the Committee I never would have known Emma, Adie, Shirley Abel or Jeanne Fischl. I never would have attended Bill Meckes' 97th birthday party nor would I be discussing the real estate listings in the Sunday "New York Times" with 98 year old Milton Focht. My life has been enriched by knowing all of them.

So if you would like to bring some sunshine into our Homebound members lives, contact me, Sharon Antrim or the church office.

**Carole O'Connell**

## VBS plans are underway!

Summer is almost here, and we are excited to announce that registration is now open for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us July 27–31 for Rome: Paul and the Underground Church, where children will travel back to the time of the early church, learn about Paul's ministry, and discover how faith and hope flourished even in difficult times.

Families can now register through the church website, and we encourage you to sign up early and invite friends to join the adventure. We are also looking for volunteers to help make the week a meaningful and fun experience for everyone. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sam, DonnaLee, or Pastor Steve.

We are looking forward to a joyful week of faith, fellowship, and summer fun together!



Use the QR code to link to our registration page for VBS-2026!

## Let's Play Ball

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game.

Game day is Tuesday, August 11, at 6:45pm. The cost is \$14.00 per person, which includes a ticket to the game and a \$2.00 ballpark credit. It'll be Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs are \$1.00 all night long.

For reservations, see Carol Raszler. Payment must accompany reservation with check payable to: St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 21. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



## Baptisms

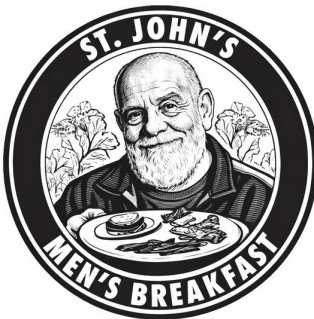
On Mother's Day, May 10, Julie and Tom Gross presented their sons, Elliot and Finnley for Baptism.



The St John's congregation welcomes the boys into the fullness of God's care and love for them as part of the church family.

Elliot and Finnley are the grandsons of proud grandparents, Gary and Janet Black.

## Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's normally meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. However, due to the upcoming Keystone Annual Meeting held on that day, our next meeting has been changed to **Saturday, June 13**, at 8:30am. Rev. James Robison will be the guest speaker.

We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, you can contact Pastor Steve.

## Grocery Shopping is as Easy as A, B, C

Whether you drive to the grocery store to shop, order online, or have your groceries delivered, we all need groceries. Do you realize that by purchasing Giant and Weis gift cards and by saving Redner's register tapes you are contributing money to St. John's?

For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5% back. You also get discounts for gas at both stores. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship.

For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back from its "Save-A-Tape Program." The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include receipts from other stores. If you have any questions, see Karen Stoitsits.

It's an easy way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping or need to fill up your car.



**Gift Cards**



**Receipts**

# Grocery Shopping = Giving Back to St. John's

**Buy Giant and Weis Gift Cards from St. John's**

→ You spend the full value.  
The church receives a percentage.

**Save your Redner's Tape**

→ Redner's donates 1% of your total back to St. John's!

**Every receipt counts. Every grocery trip helps.**



## Making Faith Connections Together

St. John's, the United Church of Christ, welcomes new persons to become members in the faith family, with strong, loving connections.

**G**ather in faith and fellowship

**G**ain understanding and relationships

**G**ive in time, talent and treasure

**G**row through acts of compassion and service

**GO!** Sharing our life and love, grace and hope!



Use the QR code to watch the video.

This 5G Connection has led 6 new persons to join our covenant family of faith on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Our June newsletter is published before this event, so we will share their pictures next month. In a message to the Office, one of our prospective new members wrote, "I'm Looking forward to joining. The people are so friendly and welcoming. I'm just a little scared to be in a new place. Thank you for everything and also thank you to Pastor Steve."

St. John's Fullerton is proud to welcome...

Pat Demmy

Phyllis Gutekunst

Joan Hottle

Sueann Hregician

Ethel Lavenburg

Marcie Wolfe

## Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries

We congratulate the following pastors who will celebrate the anniversaries of their ordinations in June.

Rev. John Hoff – 53rd Anniversary of Ordination – 6/10/73

Rev. Cliff Herring – 54th Anniversary of Ordination – 6/11/72



## Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Phyllis Ambearle

Anita Beil

Sherry Castello

Shirley Downing

Milton Focht

Sally Gibson

Tracey Glass

Lucille Hicks

Geraldine Keim

William Meckes

Dale Millham

Karen Moyer

Mary Jane Ott

Helen Ryer

Bert Smith

Leona Snyder

Nancy Weaver

Bonnie Weikel

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



## God Is Still Speaking!

### Verso-Chat — Growing in Faith Through Conversation

#### Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

There is something powerful about opening Scripture together. Each week in Verso-Chat, we gather around the lectionary texts that shape our Sunday worship, not simply to study the Bible, but to listen deeply for how God's Spirit is still speaking through these ancient stories today.

Together, we bring our questions, insights, experiences, and hopes into conversation. And in that shared space, faith is strengthened, perspectives are widened, and Scripture becomes more than words on a page—it becomes a living invitation into the life of Christ.

Verso-Chat is a place of curiosity, reflection, honesty, and grace. It is a welcoming conversation where every voice matters and where listening to one another becomes part of listening for God.

Some participants join us in person on Wednesday mornings, while others connect later through the weekly recording. However you participate, you are part of this growing community of learning and discovery.

Whether you are new to Bible study or simply looking for a more conversational and reflective approach to Scripture, there is a place for you here. Come listen. Come wonder. Come discover something new together.

Verso-Chat awaits you. <https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



# VERSO-CHAT

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

**Sunday, May 24 – IronPigs Party Porch** – 6:35pm at Coca Cola Park. \$40 includes ticket to game & meal. Fireworks. See Tom.

**Sunday, May 31 – Order Deadline for Pie Sale** – Whipped Coconut Cream Pie \$12 & Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie \$14. Only 50 will be made. See Carol.

**Wednesday, June 3 – Bus Trip to See "Joshua"** – Leaves St. John's at 8am & returns 6pm-6:30pm. Cost \$150 Includes ticket to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, meal at Yoder's Restaurant, bus & tip for bus driver. SOLD OUT. See Tom.

**Friday, June 12 – Flag Day Gift Card Bingo** – Doors open at 6pm; game begins at 7pm. Tricky Tray. 50/50 raffle. Food available to purchase. Tickets on sale now--\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Wear red, white & blue. See Tom.

**Friday, June 19 (6pm to 8pm) & Sunday, June 21 (after worship)** – Pie Sale pickup in Fox Hall. See Carol.

**Sunday, June 21 – Reservation deadline for IronPigs Grandstand** – \$14. See Carol.

**Saturday, July 25 – Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ** – Leaves St. John's 8am; leaves Ocean City 7pm. \$50. Details coming soon. See Brian S.

**Tuesday, August 11 – IronPigs Grandstand** – 6:45pm at Coca Cola Park. \$14 Includes ticket to game & \$2 ballpark credit. "Dollar Dog Night." See Carol for reservations.

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

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

### Committee Contacts:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Karen Stoits	(610) 262-0746
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Lori Stocker	(610) 703-2666
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119
Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372		

## June Birthdays

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

6/2 .....	Kay Chryst	6/16 .....	Melody Fox
6/3 .....	Aaron Young	6/20 .....	Sophia Pagan
6/4 .....	Linda Luckenbill		Charles Apple
	Keith Held	6/21 .....	Kristen Vanfleet
6/5 .....	Zachary Szoke	6/22 .....	Brandon Deutsch
	Jeffrey Seeds		Cheryl Mill
6/6 .....	Gregg Fisher	6/24 .....	Ernest Zellner Jr
6/9 .....	Joan Yura		Aubrey Funches
6/13 .....	Lynn Miller		Stephen Reck
	Linda Geissinger	6/25 .....	Dale Serfass
	Pam Repetz	6/29 .....	Thomas Gersbach
	Alexander Bach	6/30 .....	Michele Robinson



## June Wedding Anniversaries

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

6/2

Robert & Cheryl Mill

6/5

Glenn & Carol Buskirk

6/9

Donald & Dianna Schneck

6/11

David & Donna Brown

6/13

Thomas & Doris Hunsicker

6/14

Gary & Ruthann Hallman

6/15

Alyssa & Christopher Amaral

6/20

Judith & Andrew Doyle

6/24

Randy & Cathy Bachman

6/29

Brian & Bonnie Strauss





## **Whitehall Food Pantry**

St. John's commitment to help the 4th Monday of each month continues throughout the summer. Because of vacations, holidays, sports, and other activities, we are in need of fresh faces to help us in our commitment to help those less fortunate. If you are available this Memorial Day, May 25, or any 4th Monday of the month, please contact Gary Black [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) or (484) 274-2405. The morning session (stocking the shelves and organizing food received from grocery stores and Second Harvest) runs from 9am to 11am. The evening session (distribution of food to the pantry's patrons) runs from 5:30pm to 8pm. If you could help at any one or both of these sessions, it would be greatly appreciated.

**For the month of June, we are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, pasta, canned corn, and coffee.** Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text.

## **Collection of Backpacks & School Supplies**

We will be asking for donations of backpacks, calculators, and school supplies for the Whitehall-Coplay School District in late June & July. A collection box will be in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. We will also have a donation drive-by on Thursday, July 23, from 6pm to 8pm at the Pavilion. A list of items needed and further details will be in the July newsletter.

## Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative's Community Meals

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 4pm to 6pm. 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	Place	Address	Phone
Sunday, 6/7	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. 5th St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, 6/16	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

### Other Mission News...

The Mission Committee is happy to announce that Robin Brensinger joined our committee in May. We are looking forward to having her on our team and working with us in future mission outreach projects. Other members of the team include Gary Black, Kim Hillegass, Jean McGonigle, Carol Raszler, Cindy Reck, and Pastor Steve.

We will continue to receive contributions for Strengthen the Church to the end of May. This special offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as they work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, support new churches, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. Simply send your donation into the church office, place it in the offering plate, or give online or by text. Special offering envelopes can also be found on the table in the lounge.

When the staff at High Fidelity Wraparound delivered the 13 Easter baskets donated by St. John's members to the youth and families there, the clients responded with many thank yous. Some of the notes read: "Thank you so much for my basket. I love animals (a squishy toy), and I'll be able to share my sweets with my siblings."

“Thank you for my gift. I don’t receive candy anymore at my age, so it makes me happy to have my own basket.” “Thanks for the basket. You made my day.” One girl, age 8, jumped up and down with excitement saying, “Is that for me?” She played a fun game she saw online with the jellybeans from her basket and created a craft section in her room with the coloring book and crayons. A brother, age 9, and his sister, age 11, were excited as well and had huge smiles on their faces. The siblings kept saying ‘Thank you’ over and over again; and when they found all the goodies in their baskets, they said “This is so cool!” If you want to learn more about HFW, a program of Pinebrook Family Answers, you can contact Emma Rarich at (484) 714-6757 or email [erarich@pbfalv.org](mailto:erarich@pbfalv.org)

### How did St. John’s Family do?

Mission	April 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 669.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 4,267.00	\$4,603.33
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 35.00	\$ 666.99	\$1,295.00	\$1,225.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 5.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 425.00
Mountain Valley Assoc.	\$ 85.00	\$ 310.00	N/A	N/A
OGHS Endowment	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	N/A	N/A
“Keeping You in Stitches” Crafters	\$ 137.10	\$ 137.10	\$ 400.00	\$ 522.25



## We're So Proud of You!

In April, Maya Williams was honored as the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award. This award represents good citizenship, leadership, dependability and service. And then in May, she was honored at the 250th Ceremonial Celebration of America hosted by the Senate of Pennsylvania. Maya was chosen as the student representative from Lehigh and Northampton counties on behalf of Senator Nick Miller. Maya is the daughter of George & Jill Williams and the granddaughter of Bob & Rev. Becky Beckwith.



# BUDGET UPDATE

## St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Apr 2026

Income	Electronic	4/5/2026	4/12/2026	4/19/2026	4/26/2026	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,556.56	\$12,596.00	\$3,929.25	\$2,692.00	\$1,739.00	\$27,512.81
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,325.50	\$400.00		\$41.00		\$1,766.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$871.20	\$290.00	\$(500.00)	\$50.47	\$100.00	\$811.67
Endowment Interest	\$8,665.00					\$8,665.00
Flowers		\$25.00		\$55.00	\$80.00	\$160.00
Faith Formation	\$62.47	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$127.47
Special Gifts	\$400.00					\$400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,880.73</b>	<b>\$13,321.00</b>	<b>\$3,444.25</b>	<b>\$2,848.47</b>	<b>\$1,949.00</b>	<b>\$39,443.45</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$12,164.63	\$11,963.98	\$200.65
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,792.98	\$9,467.97	\$325.01
Building Services	\$3,767.42	\$3,981.25	\$(213.83)
Faith Formation	\$0.00	\$104.17	\$(104.17)
Parish Programs	\$2,900.89	\$2,610.42	\$290.47
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,625.92</b>	<b>\$28,127.79</b>	<b>\$498.13</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$39,443.45	\$110,286.02
Total Expenses	\$28,625.92	\$117,049.35
<b>Net INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$10,817.53</b>	<b>\$(6,763.33)</b>

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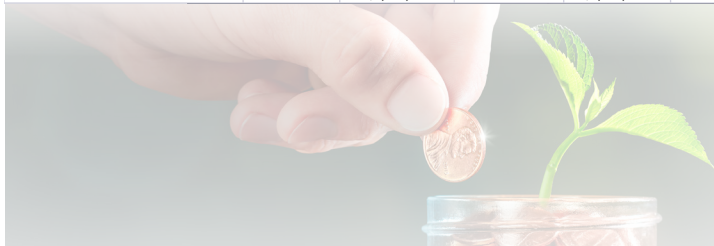
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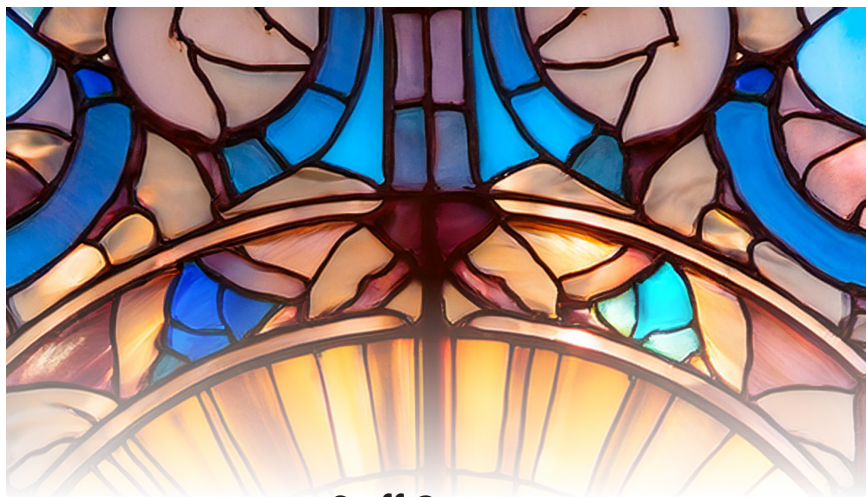
### Mission Giving, Apr 2026

Our Churches Wider Mission		\$669.00		
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$5.00		
Mountain Valley Assoc		\$85.00		
Whitehall Food Pantry		\$35.00		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$794.00</b>		

### St John's UCC Fullerton Account Balances For Month Ending, Apr 2026

Account	Mar-26	Apr-26	Difference	
Checking Account	\$79,701.60	\$84,054.13	\$4,352.53	
Giant Card Funds	\$967.00	\$1,617.00	\$650.00	
Weis Card Funds	\$1,342.25	\$1,094.75	\$(247.50)	
sub-total General Fund Assets		\$82,010.85	\$86,765.88	\$4,755.03
Restricted/Property Investments	\$363,305.00	\$363,898.00	\$593.00	
sub-total Restricted Assets		\$363,305.00	\$363,898.00	\$593.00
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$974,542.00	\$1,010,074.00	\$35,532.00	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,419,857.85</b>	<b>\$1,460,737.88</b>	<b>\$40,880.03</b>	
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(80,529.13)	\$(80,405.46)	\$123.67	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES</b>	<b>\$(80,529.13)</b>	<b>\$(80,405.46)</b>	<b>\$123.67</b>	
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,339,328.72</b>	<b>\$1,380,332.42</b>	<b>\$41,003.70</b>	





## Staff Contacts

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

## Entered the Church Eternal

*"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

*- 2 Timothy 4:7-8*



Edward J. Sommers, Jr. - age 74, of Whitehall, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 30th, 2026, surrounded by family. He was the husband of Cynthia J. (Heatley) Sommers. They celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary, February 10th, 2026. Born in Allentown, he was a son of the late Clara (aka Margaret) I. (Heffner) and Edward J. Sommers, Sr, Edward was a graduate of Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville. He was a systems analyst at Cedarbrook with Lehigh County for 28 years before retiring in 2006. In accordance with Ed's final wishes there will be no funeral services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to American Cancer Society towards Small Cell Lung cancer. <https://donate.cancer.org>