



**SHARON
ANTRIM**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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“Repairers of the Breach”

“The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” - Isaiah 58:11-12

***Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around
Turn me around, turn me around,
Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around
I’m gonna keep on walkin’, keep on talkin’,
Marchin’ up that freedom land.***

Do you find yourself feeling weary? In your weary moments, do we fall back? At the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King said, “Nothing would be more tragic than for us to turn around... we must press forward.” And from his words, a song rose up to meet the marchers in the movement with new power.

“Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round” is a freedom song based on the spiritual “Don’t You Let Nobody Turn You Round” and became an American civil rights era anthem. It was sung during demonstrations for civil rights in the United States, including during the Memphis sanitation strike in 1967, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After marches of civil disobedience were met by violent actions of brutality, the watching world took note. The nation began to wrestle within itself over our lives of privilege and those who live under oppression. The call of Dr. King was not just for African Americans, but a call to the poor of our nation; the injustice of poverty anywhere, for anyone of any race, color or creed. In the face of water cannons and rubber bullets, mounted “officers of the law” with billy clubs and bats, police with dogs ready to attack and bite into the flesh of protestors, all designed to turn people back, turn them around from their cries for justice and silence them, the people stood united and sang in their marches... “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round.”

I first heard these words in 2017 when marching with generations of women and those who love and support them in Seattle, Washington, almost 50 years after they were first shared. “Nothing would be more tragic than for us to turn around.” We heard the call of a new preacher, pastor and prophet speaking to this generation. Having just come through Black History Month for February and Women’s History Month for March, the words of the Rev. Dr. William Barber have been resounding in my mind as he called us then and even last week, to embrace our heritage as those who are repairers of the breach, restorers of the soul of the nation, through the example of Jesus.

Bishop William J. Barber II, DMin, is President and Senior Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, as well as a professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Public Policy and Founding Director of the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School. For the last decade, he has led people of faith and good will in a weekly emphasis to explore and call for our collective pursuit of justice through what he calls the "Moral Monday Movement." I still receive his messages and invitations to join in the work of the Church joining with those of other faiths and no faith in doing what is right to lift ALL PEOPLE. Dr. Barber said, "Nothing would be more tragic than for us to turn around. We must go forward," echoing the words of Dr. King half a century ago.

"What do we do when we are weary?" the question stayed with me. Often, when I'm weary I want to take a break, get some rest, have some refreshment, and sometimes... turn away from the urgency of the moment. Yet our faith welcomes us to embrace the One whose love is steadfast and everlasting; to not turn around, but follow in faith, taking the hand of those alongside us and walk stronger together.

When we are weary, God invites us to join in the journey of hope to see God at work through us... when we meet hate with love, when we meet meanness with mercy, when we meet evil and greed with trust in God's abundance. We can see God at work through us... when we meet lies with the truth, when we meet treachery with triumphant love. Theologian Jurgen Moltmann said we see the glory of God when people of faith see things that are wrong and they decide to put their hands and their bodies to work to change what is wrong. That's when hope comes! Hope comes when you go to work.

During this season of Lent, may we be those who claim our place as the "repairers of the breach" to bring hope and welcome justice. May we be those whose lives reveal the confidence of walking with God, sharing love for God and each other. May we hear the voice of God remind us that we are God's beloved people, those who choose to love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves in our journey of faith. We are those who take action and step forward... "for nothing would be more tragic than for us to turn around." 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...



SHARON ANTRIM

My name is Sharon Antrim, and I have been a devoted member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Fullerton since September 2, 2007. After attending several services, I felt a profound connection and, following a meaningful conversation with Pastor Becky Beckwith, knew this was the spiritual home I needed. Since then, my faith has flourished, and I feel truly blessed to be part of a community dedicated to growing together in faith.

In 2008, I became a founding member of the Healthcare Ministry at St. John's. One of our initiatives, the Walking Challenges, has been particularly rewarding for me, as it allows me to encourage others toward better health. Currently, I serve on the Visitation Committee and am in my second term on the Consistory. Over the years, I've also assisted with various other committees as needed.

Beyond my church involvement, I have been a volunteer with Lehigh Valley Hospice for twenty years. I firmly believe that God called me to this ministry, and I am blessed by every patient who comes into my life. I am equally blessed with my church family and am grateful for the love and support we share. Thank you.

Deadline for April Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the April newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, March 9.

Photos or graphics for your article should be sent as attachments to your emailed submission. Please do not send inside a .DOC file.

[Updated style guidelines here](#)

Music at St. John's

Fast from judging others; **Feast** on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness; **Feast** on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; **Feast** on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent; **Feast** on gratitude.

Fast from anger; **Feast** on patience.

Fast from pessimism; **Feast** on hope.

Fast from negatives; **Feast** on encouragement.

Fast from bitterness; **Feast** on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; **Feast** on compassion.

Fast from suspicion; **Feast** on truth.

Fast from gossip; **Feast** on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; **Feast** on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety; **Feast** on faith.

- Author Unknown

March 5th marks the beginning of my favorite liturgical season, the season of Lent. As many know, I was born and raised Catholic, so the Lenten season was always jam-packed with various activities, one of those being the Stations of the Cross. For those unfamiliar with the Stations of the Cross, in the Catholic Tradition, we would journey through the fourteen stations of the Passion and death of our Jesus. We would begin with the Garden of Gethsemane and end with the Burial of Jesus.

We would hear the phrases of "Crucify this man," "Father, forgive them," "It is finished," drawing us to Calvary, to experience the events that lead us to Holy Week.

Maybe it's the time of personal reflection during the season that strikes a chord for me? Or maybe it's hearing the stories of Jesus' ministry that lead us to Holy Week. Maybe it's the music used throughout the season that paints the picture of what true redeeming love is all about?

If I have learned anything from being a music director, it is that the season of Lent is a time in the liturgical calendar where we take the time to reflect. We reflect on our own lives and what we hope to get out of the forty-day journey.

This Lent, I believe we all need to take that much needed time to breathe. With so much happening around us from our own personal struggles, to our national and world struggles, we eventually need a moment to step back, breathe, and reflect. Isn't that what Lent is all about? Isn't this season a time to reflect on the cross and see what true love is all about? Happy Lent!

Musically Yours,
Patrick




Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Ron Glass	Mary Jane Ott
Larry Albright	Gus Geissinger	Marilyn (Jean) Piskula
Phyllis Ambearle	Roberta Haberern	Helen Ryer
Anita Beil	Lucille Hicks	Madeline Slivka
Clarence Biehn	Geraldine Keim	Bert Smith
Sherry Castello	Emma Repp Kuczek	Leona Snyder
Sandra Diefenderfer	Jean Litzenberger	Nancy Weaver
Shirley Downing	Bill Meckes	Bonnie Weikel
Jeanne Fischl	Gayle Mihulec	Arline Yoder
Milton Focht	Dale Millham	
Sally Gibson	Karen Moyer	

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

A close-up photograph of several purple tulips in bloom, with their petals showing delicate veining. The flowers are set against a soft, out-of-focus background of more purple and white light. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text 'FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE' in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

and Worship Celebrations! Sunday Mornings for Children, Youth & Adults

Welcome to the growing and expectant faith we share together at St. John's! 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 Room 201, to accommodate those with physical mobility needs. All are welcome to discuss 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.

9:30am Children's Faith Formation - Children gather with the congregation in worship through the Children's message, then are led 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 visit with Rev. Becca Stephens or Wendy Fox for more details about the "Holy Moly" experience with our kids..

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 into the experience of God's love through St. John's.

11:00am Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th Graders - Youth Room (3rd Floor)

AFFIRMING FAITH

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. Pray for them by name each week for this time of exploring and affirming their own faith. 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 get to know these guys and help them know who we are and how our lives have been changed in the love of God.

Dinner & Devotionals Wednesday Evenings During Lent

Beginning Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and continuing each Wednesday evening at 6pm throughout Lent, we will gather in Fox Hall for dinner and devotionals.. A Soup and Bread sign up sheet will be posted on the red display board in the sanctuary for volunteers and groups to bring 4 different soups and some sliced bread for our shared dinner meal. Come enjoy something to warm and fill your stomach and your spirit.

Lenten Message & Devotional Series

Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings in Lent, starting March 5) we will seek to open our faith to a greater experience and realization of God's love for us.



With the backdrop of the book by John Pavlovitz, *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk! Finding a Faith that Makes Us Better Humans*, we will journey with Jesus and each other toward a deeper relationship with God. In the introduction we learn the author's intent: "This book is about the walking: about imagining what love should or could look like if we take that mandate seriously. It's about the ways a bigger God is going to yield a greater capacity to love more people, and about what that will cause us to confront and confess and jettison."

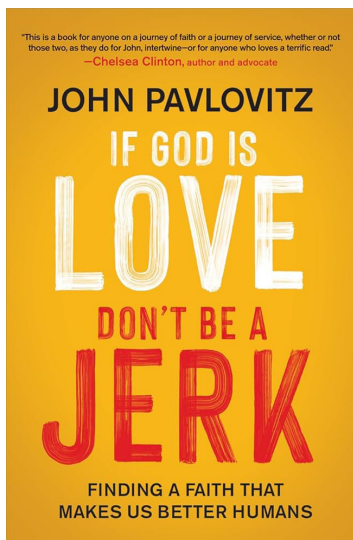
While Pavlovitz addresses many of the doctrines that are core to the Christian faith, he looks at them in new ways, particularly at the actions that result from our theological beliefs. I acknowledge in advance that John writes with a particular point of view as a decidedly progressive, liberal pastor, not afraid to deal with faith and the policies and practices that touch our lives every day. While we might disagree with some of his assertions, he shares out of his many years of pastoral experience how his faith and understanding has changed as he has come to experience God in bigger ways, opening his own capacity for love and being a better human being. I hope you will enjoy the journey together.

Wednesday evenings will offer more conversation and interaction with the book subject matter. Each message will focus on what we can do to grow our understanding of loving God and loving our neighbor, the first and greatest commandment. Plan now to take part in worship and devotionals this Lent as we journey together toward Holy Week and the triumph of God's love this Easter.

March Worship & Devotional Series Schedule

"If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk!"

Finding a Faith that Makes Us Better Humans"



Our theme for worship in March and April invite us to expand our experience of Love for God and Love for Each Other. As we open our lives of faith to God's love we will experience a greater connection with others. The primary message of the book is about embracing a compassionate and inclusive faith, emphasizing that true spirituality should lead to being kind and loving towards others. It encourages readers to live out their faith in a way that reflects love and acceptance. This will be our journey of faith guiding us to the gifts of God in Holy Week and the joy of Easter living!

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Transfiguration Sunday / Final Sunday in Epiphany

Worship Celebration with Holy Communion

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99,

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

We Are Being Transformed! Do Not Lose Heart!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday / Beginning of the Season of Lent

6pm Dinner in Fox Hall (Soup & Bread)

7pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2

Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Introduction to Book Series,

If God Is Love: "Repairers of the Breach"

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

First Sunday in Lent - Worship

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16,

Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

If God Is Love: "You Had One Job"

We all know the command to love God and love people, the first and greatest commandment according to Jesus. So why is it so hard for us to do these two things?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Dinner & Devotional (Soup & Bread) 6pm in Fox Hall

Ephesians 3:16-19

If God is Love: "Unboxing God"

Have you felt tension between your religious practice and understanding as you have grown over the years to your current faith? In our pursuit to be better human beings, we often find challenges in how our faith has shifted in times of difficulty or when confronted with personal experience. God is creating "holy moments" all around us. Let's explore God's love in them.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Worship

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27,

Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

James 1:22-24, 26-27 (The Message)

If God is Love: "Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk"

Have you ever experienced pressure to believe, profess, or affirm something in order to feel like you're part of the group? Have you felt that in the faith community? Having a faith that is open to questions and helping us better understand each other is at the heart of who we are to be as the Beloved Community. How can we be sure we widen our welcome so that the faith we proclaim is consistent with the faith we live?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Dinner & Devotional (Soup & Bread) 6pm in Fox Hall

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

If God is Love: "It's an Inside Job"

Exploring personal faith transformation is the work of every worshipper of God. We follow Jesus' example so we can be transformed.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Worship

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

If God is Love: "This Mess is Never Getting Together"

Do you feel like you're never going to meet God's expectations? To measure up to holiness of God isn't even on our list. We just want to measure up.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Dinner & Devotional (Soup & Bread) 6pm in Fox Hall

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

**If God is Love: "High Horses and Better Angels..."
or Check Your Halos and Egos at the Door**

Our faith, especially in the season of Lent, calls us to model the humility of Jesus. Yet all too often we can fall into moral superiority. Jesus invites us to a new creation kind of living that follows Jesus example of reconciliation.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Worship

*Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32,
2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 20-32*

If God is Love: "Holy Ferocity"

We've heard the story of the Prodigal Son so many times that we forget to see the Prodigal nature of the Father, reckless and extravagant, not with one son, but two. Jesus invites us to a bold and loving approach to justice and inclusion.

In Memoriam

Adrienne Kiesbar, 93, passed into eternal life on January 28, 2025. Further details forthcoming.



Ash & Dash

Wednesday March 5 – 8-9am & 4-5pm

Our Grape Street Parking Lot is transformed into a drive-up worship moment on Ash Wednesday. Begin your spiritual journey with ashes to remind us of our desire to humbly come to God and open our lives to each other, not just during this season of focused and intentional self sacrifice, but always.

Come spend 3 minutes with Pastor Steve on your way into work or on your way home for the day and receive this sign of our spiritual desire to give ourselves to God and follow Jesus' example of love.



God Is Still Speaking...

with Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9am

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.

The lectionary readings inspire our walk of faith during the season of Lent, guiding us this March and April. 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.

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!

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

If you’re interested in an evening Bible Study opportunity, contact Pastor Steve (email) about a Verso-Chat PM to begin this Spring, also on Wednesdays, and potentially more opportune for those with daytime employment.



VERSO-CHAT

Together We Are Stronger in 2025 You Make the Difference



Together, We Are Stronger!

Dear Friends,

The ministry we share is building a community of love, hope, and justice. This is holy and needed work we share. It is with gratitude that we offer ourselves to God and each other. Our gifts of generosity continue to make the difference in our church, community and world.

Our goal every month is to surpass our basic needs and grow to expand our ministry and make a difference in more lives. This can't happen with the actions of only a few, it takes all of us being part of making the difference.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Consistory leaders come to you with hope and the expectation that we can each be part of reaching our financial and ministry goals in 2025 by every person stretching just a bit. Our Treasurer, Sue Weldner, reminded us in November when we passed our budget, and again at our Annual Meeting in February, of the ease of each of us making a "small increase" each week in our contributions to create a significant difference in our ability to not just meet our needs, but expand our ministry..

- Thank you for increasing your gifts where possible on a regular basis for 2025!
- Thank you for becoming an Automatic Contributor!
- Thank you for doing your part with special donations from your heart!
- No gift is too small, and every contribution makes a difference.

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

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

Welcome Our Newest Members Of St. John's

On Sunday, February 2, we celebrated receiving 7 new persons in covenant relationship with St. John's. Maybe you've met them before in worship or at a Sunday Social. If you don't yet know their names, take a moment to introduce yourself to these new partners in faith. Share your name regularly, until they call you by name and you can do the same.



A warm St. John's welcome to:

Rev. Todd Fennell and Jean Fennell

Sherri Gangewere

Geoffrey Jackson

Rev. Dennis Schappell

Rev. Bob Stephens and Rev. Janet Boyd

If you haven't already, please consider becoming an "Automatic Contributor" through your giving.

Michelle Gutekunst and others will be happy to help you get that transaction process set up.

It's easy and reliable, and most importantly, provides consistent support for our ministry.

Lent Offering Envelopes

In addition to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelope for this special mission outreach offering, we also offer a special offering envelope for the season of Lent. In years past, people were invited to put quarters in a card each day and turn it in during Holy Week. The season of Lent is 40 days long, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday evening, not including Sundays. Perhaps this year as you think about your giving to build community and share the love of God, we might all pray and consider a donation of \$1 per day to strengthen our ministry at St. John's. Alison has created a Lent Offering envelope with a PURPLE top to identify it for the season. Please share your heart of generosity with both of these important offering opportunities.

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 **March 1 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



Aim your
smartphone camera
HERE



March

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Inclement Weather Notices

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

2	3	4	5
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	8:00am and 4:00pm Verso Chat 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Ash Wednesday 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
9	10	11	12
Newsletter deadline 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	3pm-10pm Dine & Donate at Texas Roadhouse	1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Soup and 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
16	17	18	19
8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class 3pm Phantoms Game	6:00pm "Fun-raising" Committee	9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEEPS	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Soup and 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
23	24	25	26
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 G 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Soup and 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 6:30pm STARs Meet 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
30	31		
8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour			

h 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services Sunday services,			1 8:30am Men's Breakfast at HamFam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
5 Ash & Dash with Pastor Steve Group Group day soup & service Support-Room 302	6 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Mission Committee	7 6:00pm Bingo Snow Date	8 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
12 with Pastor Steve Group Group Study Support-Room 302	13 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir	14	15 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
19 with Pastor Steve Group Group Study Support-Room 302	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir	21	22 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
26 with Pastor Steve Group Group Study k Hall ating Support-Room 302	27 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Property Committee 6:30pm Zumba-Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir	28	29 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall

Collecting Easter Baskets for Youth

At the Annual Meeting, 15 baskets were given out to members of the congregation to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, knickknacks, or whatever else is going to make it an “eggstravagant” Easter basket! The baskets will then be delivered by Pinebrook Family Answers’ High Fidelity Wraparound Process to youth in the Lehigh Valley between the ages of 8-18 years old who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) is a team-based planning process providing coordinated family-driven care to meet the complex needs of youth/families who are involved with multiple systems and at risk of placement.

All baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, April 6. Contact Emma Rarich at (610) 462-6777 or email erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions or need further information.



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

Friday, February 28 – Mardi Gras Gift Card Bingo – Doors open at 6pm, followed by the games at 7pm. Food will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a Tricky Tray. Tickets are available through the office or see Tom.

Monday, March 10 – Dine & Donate at Texas Roadhouse – Located at 6268 Hamilton Boulevard, Trexlertown, from 3pm to 10pm. Ten percent of proceeds will be given back to St. John’s. A flyer is needed and available on the church’s website or on the table in the lounge.

Sunday, March 16 – Phantoms Hockey – The game starts at 3:05pm at PPL Center with Phantoms vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. Tickets cost \$25 per person. Deadline for payment March 2. See Brian F.

Sundays, March 16 and March 23 – Easter & Spring Craft Sale – Items will be sold in the lounge area each Sunday before and after worship. See Carol.

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

Saturday, April 26 – Comedy Night & Meal – 6pm to 9pm In Fox Hall. Enjoy an evening of laughter and a great lasagna meal. Cost \$10 per person. Signup sheet on board in lounge area soon. Comedians wanted. See Pastor Steve.

SaveAround Lehigh Valley Coupon Books 2025 – Discounts to restaurants, stores, sporting goods, recreational activities, reliable services, hotels, car rentals, etc. Cost \$25. Good all year. Deadline to purchase March 9. 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:

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		

Getting an Early Start for Our Basket Social

We are starting now to collect EMPTY baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. If you would like to donate a basket you are no longer using, please bring it to the church office.

We will also need donations of FILLED baskets. It's never too early to start collecting items to fill your baskets. Some of the many basket themes you could create are:

Baby Items	Children's Games	Pet Supplies
Baking	Crafts	Picnic
Beverages	Entertainment	Puzzles
Beauty/Spa	Gardening/Plants	Restaurant
Books	Gift Card Items	Snacks
Camping	Linens	Sports Supplies
Car Care	Movie/Parks	Toys

Please see co-chairs Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler if you have any questions.



Reserve the dates:

✓ Saturday, May 31 – 9am to 2pm

✓ Sunday, June 1 – Before and after worship

Lady PEEPS

Hello Lady PEEPS! Lady PEEPS stands for Positive, Extraordinary, Encouraging, Prayerful, Sisters! We are the Women's Group at St. John's. Every month we meet from September through May with a variety of program themes and activities. All women ages 18 and over are welcome to come to any of these meetings. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Cliff Herring and the theme will be "Life on a Roller Coaster." Come and enjoy a relaxing evening of friendship and laughter as we learn about Pastor Cliff's obsession with roller coasters. Refreshments will be served and please use the elevator entrance!

SaveAround Lehigh Valley" Coupon Books

Final Call to Purchase

These 2025 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. It features the most popular local restaurants, merchants, and entertainment venues and is good for the entire year. 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, and the church gets to keep half! Please make checks payable to St. John's. Books can be purchased through the church office or see Carol Raszler.

Deadline to purchase is Sunday, March 9.

Getting Ready for Holy Humor Weekend

Volunteer comedians are needed for St. John's Holy Humor Weekend. It all begins with Comedy Night and a lasagna meal on Saturday, April 26, from 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall and concludes with Holy Humor Sunday at worship on April 27. Mark the dates on your calendar.

If you like to tell jokes, have a funny story to share, or are in the possession of a humorous picture or video, we need your participation. More information will follow in the April newsletter. Please contact Pastor Steve and be willing to share your comedic talents as part of the entertainment for this fun-filled weekend.



Sunday Socials

More Than Just a Coffee Hour!

Join us in Fox Hall after worship for food, fun, and fellowship. Each week, Sunday Socials offer a relaxed way to connect, share good food, and build community.

Interested in hosting? Sign up on the red display board at the back of the sanctuary, or call the Church Office to coordinate with Alison. Colleen Kulhammer is available to help you get started in the Church kitchen.

Bring a friend and experience the joy of sharing together!

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.

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.

Reminder: Pastie Sale Pickup

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our spring Pastie Sale. Pickup in Fox Hall is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, from 6pm to 8pm and on Sunday, March 30, following worship. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com



Our pastor announced he was giving up coffee for Lent—so we warned him, "Don't let your sermons go decaf!"

Easter & Spring Craft Sale

March is National Craft Month

Hop to it—our Crafters group, “Keeping You in Stitches,” has Easter and Spring items for sale. Choose from bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, decorations, and baskets. Also for sale are our household and kitchen items, 12-bean soup mix, baby items, and much more. Please look for our table in the lounge area on Sundays, March 16 and March 23, before and after the worship service. Contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or email crazzler@aol.com



Wanted!

A sewer is needed to join our Crafters group “Keeping You in Stitches.” We are looking for someone willing to help sew our table runners, bowl cozies, baby bibs, etc. Fabric and directions will be provided along with help if needed. Please contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or crazzler@aol.com if you are interested.



Dine & Donate at Texas Roadhouse

The “Fun-Raising” Committee has scheduled another Dine & Donate event at the Texas Roadhouse located at 6268 Hamilton Blvd. in Trexlertown on Monday, March 10, between the hours of 3pm to 10pm – dine-in or to-go. Menu includes a large selection of appetizers, dinners, salads, burgers, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages. The restaurant will donate 10% of your total food purchases back to St. John’s. A flyer is needed and is included in this newsletter, on the church’s website, and on the table in the lounge area. If you have any questions, contact a member of the “Fun-Raising” Committee.



(610) 395-2611
6268 Hamilton Blvd. | Trexlertown, PA

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» **Support** ««
St. John’s UCC Fullerton
Monday – March 10, 2025
3pm – 10pm



10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support **St. John’s UCC Fullerton** by presenting this flyer to the **Trexelertown** Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **St. John’s UCC Fullerton**

March Birthdays

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

3/2	Lois Gillette Nicholas Santee Lisa Weiner	3/15	Maura Rarich Patricia Warmkessel
3/5	Carol Geroulo	3/16	Michael Jordan
3/6	Patricia Bendekovits Fern Hozza Jason Loch Cynthia Reck Marilyn Reid	3/18	Rion McNicholas
3/7	Sandra Heffelfinger	3/19	Conrad Beck Donald Schneck
3/8	Michelle Gutekunst	3/20	Keith Kaider Maggie Marinkovits Melissa Mendiolina
3/10	Judith Carr Mark Moll	3/22	Michael Leibensperger
3/11	Alyssa Beckwith	3/26	Jeffrey Nailor
3/12	Ethan Brobst	3/27	Halle Beck Jeffrey Eichman
3/13	Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith Gianni Russo	3/29	Lucille Hicks Donald Miller Jr
		3/30	Bradley Beckwith
		3/31	Shepard Rarich Lord



March Wedding Anniversaries

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

3/3/79
Robert & Nancy Dougherty
3/5/77
Timothy & Karen Christman
3/6/99
Matthew & Judith Sommer

3/9/91
Dewey & DonnaLee Yeatts
3/9/74
Gary & Janet Black
3/24/79
Dale & Susan Brinker



Dear Members of St. John's UCC,

We appreciate those from St. John's who supported Phoebe's "Operation Santa." Through the generosity of others, each senior at Phoebe enjoyed a meaningful holiday filled with festive activities, holiday meals, religious services, and gifts delivered by Santa! Thank you to all who helped make the holiday season special for our seniors at Phoebe Ministries.

Sincerely,
Kristine Paupini
Donor Relations Coordinator
Phoebe Ministries



Mission Moment

"Be the Light" - One Great Hour of Sharing

"Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." ~ Matthew 5: 14-16

For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been helping bring God's hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development; fight poverty and its consequences; bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster; provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons; and combat injustice in its many forms.

OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners in comprehensive developmental programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. Your contribution helps meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert and special offering envelopment for OGHS. Your contribution will be received in worship on Sunday, March 30, and during the entire month of March. Please place your offering in the collection plate, mail into the church, or give online or by text.



Whitehall Food Pantry

Due to the weather and church cancellation in February, we have extended our deadline and will continue to collect cans of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring" until the end of February. Our goal is to collect 250 cans of soup.

For the month of March, we are collecting pancake mix, jelly, 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. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, we meet at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Whitehall on the 4th Monday of each month in the morning from 9am to 11am and in the evening from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. For more information, contact Gary Black gary.t.black@outlook.com or (484) 274-2405.

California Wildfires Update

On January 7 and for the rest of the month, a series of 17 destructive wildfires affected the Los Angeles metropolitan area and San Diego County in California. The fires were exacerbated by drought conditions, low humidity, a buildup of vegetation from the previous winter, and hurricane-force Santa Ana winds, which in some places reached 100 miles per hour. As of January 31, the wildfires have killed at least 29 people, forced more than 200,000 to evacuate, and destroyed or damaged more than 18,000 homes and structures.

Most of the damage was from the two largest fires: the Palisade Fire in Pacific Palisades and the Eaton Fire in Altadena. The picture in this newsletter shows the Altadena UCC Community Church after the Eaton fire. The fire reduced the 78-year-old sanctuary and building to ashes as well as consumed the homes of at least 15 members who belonged to this small, aging United Church of Christ congregation.

The devastation has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and landscapes forever changed. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it's a long road ahead. Your support can bring lasting hope to those affected by this crisis. Your gift will help provide resources including emotional and spiritual care to families in need. It will also support long-term recovery efforts, ensuring communities can rebuild stronger and more resilient.

We will continue to accept monetary contributions for the California wildfires until the end of March. General Disaster Relief Fund envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area. Donations can be mailed into the church office, put in the offering plate, made online, or by text. Please make checks payable to: St. John's UCC, Fullerton with "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo section.



A scorched cross that once adorned the Altadena Community Church lies in rubble after the Eaton fire.

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, (610) 730-3184. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday 3/2	St. John the Baptist (social hall)	3024 S. Ruch St., Whitehall	(610) 262-2260
Tuesday 3/18	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Cath. Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Sunday 4/6	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Sunday 4/15	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Reminder: Return filled Easter baskets for youth at Pinebrook Family Answers HFW by April 2. Contact our member Emma Rarich (610) 462-6777 or email erarch@pbfalv.org if you have any questions.

How Did Our St. John’s Family Do?

Mission	Jan 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$1,424.00	\$1,082.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 415.00	\$ 435.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 790.00
General Disaster – California Wildfires	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	N/A	N/A
Christmas Fund (late contribution)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	-	-
TOTALS	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,649.00	\$ 1,872.00

Mission Outreach giving for January 2025 totaled \$2,200.00.



Daylight Saving Time begins March 9



Be sure to set your clocks ahead!

Spring
Forward

BUDGET UPDATE

January 2025

Monthly Income

INCOME	General Fund	Property Fund	Restricted Fund	Missions Fund	Endowment Fund	TOTAL
Communion	\$ 141.00				\$ 141.00	\$ 141.00
Fees Offset	\$ 14.70				\$ 14.70	\$ 14.70
HELP	\$ 55.00				\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
Initial	\$ 150.00				\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Loose Plate Giving	\$ 2,572.00				\$ 2,572.00	\$ 2,572.00
Membership Giving	\$ 15,948.00				\$ 15,948.00	\$ 15,948.00
Faith Formation Offerings	\$ 125.00				\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
Sunday Flowers	\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Pastie Sale Income	\$ 158.50				\$ 158.50	\$ 158.50
Redners Save-a-Tape	\$ 50.25				\$ 50.25	\$ 50.25
501 Grape St Rent	\$ 1,225.50				\$ 1,225.50	\$ 1,225.50
Painting Classes	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Zumba Classes	\$ 48.00				\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
Endowment Income for General Fund	\$ 5,825.00				\$ 5,825.00	\$ 5,825.00
Christmas Fund				\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Our Churches Wider Mission				\$ 1,005.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 1,005.00
Whitehall Food Pantry				\$ 435.00	\$ 435.00	\$ 435.00
UCC General Disaster				\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Pavilion Donations		\$ 245.00			\$ 245.00	\$ 245.00
Property Needs Donations		\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Elevator Modernization		\$ 555.00			\$ 555.00	\$ 555.00
VBS Donations			\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Pastor Discretionary			\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 26,462.95	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 30,242.95	\$ 30,242.95





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The
March 2025
edition of St. John's
CONNECTIONS
is sponsored by Bob Bold
in loving memory
of his wife and son,
Barbara and Mike

