

**REV. TODD
FENNELL**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 18 • Issue 157 • October 2025

Choosing Faith

Is faith a gift or a choice? Is it something God does in us, or something we do for God? The answer, of course, is “Yes.” Faith is both a gift freely given and a choice faithfully made. It is God’s work within us, but it is also our daily decision to trust God’s presence and promises—especially when life is difficult.

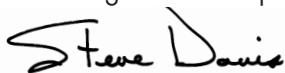
When Joshua faced the daunting task of leading God’s people into an unknown future after Moses’ death, he surely felt uncertain and afraid. In that moment, God spoke words that still echo to us today: “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9). Joshua’s story reminds us that choosing faith is not about having everything figured out, but about trusting that God is with us as we take the next step.

Challenges come to all of us: uncertainty about the future, struggles in our families, illness, grief, or the daily weight of responsibilities. In those moments, faith is not simply a belief we hold in our heads; it is a way of living. It is a partnership with God, where we lean on divine strength and open ourselves to be guided, shaped, and sustained.

To choose faith in times of challenge means we resist the pull of fear or despair and instead root ourselves in the hope God provides. In this season of worship, we invite you to consider: What does it mean for us to be people of faith in our own times of challenge? Together, let us be a community that chooses faith — faith that grounds us, strengthens us, and blesses the world around us. We are St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, and...

**“We Worship, We Love and We Serve
~ No Matter What!”**

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



A Word from the Music Ministry

Keeping the Ministry in Music Ministry

By Paul Detterman

Most people think church musicians, let alone the Director of Music, are volunteers to create music for the church. Our actual calling, however, is to help other people create the church's music. Whether you're the only musician in a small congregation or the principal professional responsible for a large and diverse ministry, music "ministry" is all about using the gifts God has given us to discover and nurture the gifts God has given others.

A music ministry allows us to be invested in our people, starting with the congregation as a whole. How can we nurture more enthusiastic singing? How can we make hymns and the service more meaningful? How can we draw out their music gifts and expand their repertoire?

Music ministry requires us to be constantly on the lookout for people who have gifts and interest in music, especially children and youth, and to make room for them to discover the joy of sharing their gifts.

A music ministry asks us to respond with grace and humility when—not if—those who are first sharing their gifts might fall a little short of the congregations' expectations, or our own—and it allows us to develop healthy gospel-shaped personal humility as we realize the joy of growing with the people around us, all the while cultivating an atmosphere of grace and gratitude.

At the end of the day, the reason we sing is not perfection. We sing because the world is noisy with grief and greed, and somebody's got to fling beauty back into it. We sing because joy needs witnesses. Voices stitched together can become something larger than ourselves. Sometimes, the only way to remind the world and our weary selves that joy still exists, we only have to sing it into being.

Musically Yours,
Patrick

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On The Cover...



REV. TODD FENNEL

Greetings St. Johns Church Family,

I am Todd Fennell, one of the retired UCC Pastors that found a home at St. Johns with my wife, Jean and pup, Blossom.

We have enjoyed the welcome here and worship very much.

I served 24 years at First UCC, Milford, NJ as Pastor and half of those years as Choir Director.

Next, we would cross the Delaware to serve at St. Pauls UCC in Northampton for 15 years.

After my official retirement at the end of 2019, I accepted a very part-time pastorate at Bethany UCC in Bethlehem and helped bring that congregation through the perils of the COVID 19 season.

I retired again at the end of 2023 and on March 16 of this year, we joined St. Johns as new members. Jean and I recently joined the choir and look forward to that music ministry.

I am a member of the Bethlehem Bach Choir and Camerata Singers and have done vocal and instrumental (trombone) solos. I love church suppers as well.

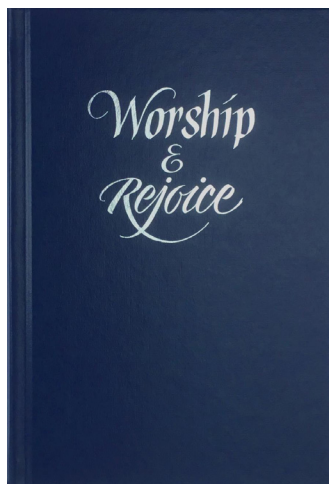
The Church Eternal

"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

In the month of September, St. John's celebrated and grieved together, remembering 4 members of our faith family who have received their place in God's eternal home. Together, we remember and give thanks for Ron Glass, Emma Repp Kuzcek, Ron Eichman and Roberta Haberern. In addition to these from St. John's, Pastor Steve's and his sister Christen's father, Gibbs Taylor, passed away in Texas.

Even though the earthly life is temporary, we still often hope for a few more precious moments and memories together. We grieve, and we celebrate these whom we have deeply loved and cherished, and we share our support for each other. We do not grieve as those who have no hope, for we embrace Jesus' words of assurance, "Because I live, you shall live also!" Thanks be to God!

Honoring Tradition, Embracing the Future: Worship and Rejoice



St. John's Music Ministry is proud to introduce: The Worship and Rejoice Hymnal.

Worship and Rejoice, a hymnal published by Hope Publishing in 2003, is an extensive collection of 749 titles containing all the essential traditional hymns, plus over 100 of the top contemporary worship songs. The broad scope of Worship & Rejoice makes it the richest resource available for blending different styles of music together in one service.

As we take this next step in growing our worship experience, we would like to introduce this hymnal for usage taking the place of New Century. We are providing you, our faithful members of the congregation, with an opportunity to dedicate each new hymnal purchased. Each hard cover book is valued at \$20.00. Your generosity and commitment is vital to serving others through our beautiful services.

How this benefits St. John's:

Believe it or not, the Worship and Rejoice hymnal has been in use at St John's since its publication in 2003. Prior to Patrick's arrival, our previous music director used this hymnal regularly; making copies of hymns not found in The New Century Hymnal, and publishing them in our weekly bulletin. This is why you will notice the copyright information is published every week in our bulletin.

Is this a needed investment?

While these hymnals open new possibilities for Sunday worship, one of the main reasons New Century was not used as often is the extent of the wording changes made to beloved hymns in pursuit of inclusive language.

A prime example is the Christmas Carol, O Come All Ye Faithful. In the New Century hymnal, the text is the following:

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come now, O come now to Bethlehem. Come and behold the ruler of all angels;

Refrain: O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!

Another example of the inclusive language is America the Beautiful—in New Century they changed the title to be O Beautiful for Spacious Skies and the language to the entire first verse.

Example: How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain; our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain. America! America! God's gracious gifts abound, and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

As you can see, there were significant changes to what we love to sing on Christmas Eve and in general. Worship and Rejoice offers familiar, traditional language for the hymns we all know, plus makes room for new tunes and lyrics.

Help us make a joyful noise to the Lord through our hymns as we take this next step in growth!



Dine and Donate with St. John's

SAVE THE DATE - October 15, 5-9pm at Grove Street Pub and Grill in Catasauqua. It's "Clam Night!"

Dine & Donate: Fun + Fundraising! Love clams? Then you're in for a treat! Not a clam fan? No worries—there are plenty of other delicious choices waiting for you at Grove St. Pub and Grill.

On Tuesday, October 15, bring your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a great meal and great company. St. John's will receive 10% of all food and beverage sales (excluding alcohol), so every bite helps support our ministry.

It's simple: come hungry, leave happy, and help raise funds for St. John's. That's what we call a win-win! We try to plan a Dine & Donate every month, giving us a chance to enjoy a night out while someone else does the cooking—and our church receives the blessing.

Mark your calendar and join us for this fun night of food, fellowship, and fundraising!

Grove Street
PUB & GRILL

St John's UCC Fullerton
Dine and Donate night
5p-9p for DINE IN guests only.
10% of earnings,
excluding alcohol will be
contributed to the church.
1092 Howertown Rd, Catasauqua

WEDNESDAY
Oct 15

This flyer must be presented for St John's to receive benefit.

Sunday Socials - Sharing Around the Table



At St. John's, we know that good food and good company go hand in hand. Whether it's after worship, a potluck, or a mid-week gathering, sharing food and conversation always draws us closer together.

We're excited to gather with friends and meet new ones in our after-worship fellowship time we call Sunday Socials — a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy one another's company as we deepen our connections around the tables.

And here's where you come in: we need hosts! Hosting a Sunday Social is simple and fun — you can do it on your own or team up with friends. It's a wonderful way to offer hospitality and make our church family feel even more connected.

Here's how to sign up:

- Stop by the red display board at the back of the sanctuary
- Call the church office and let Alison know which Sunday works for you
- Not sure what's involved? No problem — Colleen Kulhammer is glad to give you a quick kitchen tour and help you feel confident.

Let's keep the tradition of food, fun, and fellowship alive. Sign up today and help make our Sunday Socials a joyful part of life at St. John's!



Trunk Or Treat

On Friday, October 31st, join us at the Pavilion between 6pm-8pm for a fun and spooky evening of Trunk or Treat. Yes, folks, this year Trunk or Treat is actually on Halloween! You can dress up if you like and decorate your car to hand out candy and goodies to all the neighborhood munchkins! Or you can just stop by for a quick meal deal!

This year the theme at the pavilion will be The Wizard of Oz. The Emerald City Cafe will be selling TOTO'S HOTDOG MEALS and WICKED WITCH CHILI MEALS. These \$5 meals will also include chips or crackers, a small water and a sweet treat. This is such a fun evening with St. John's friends and lots of smiling children. If you would like to participate please see Colleen Kulhamer!





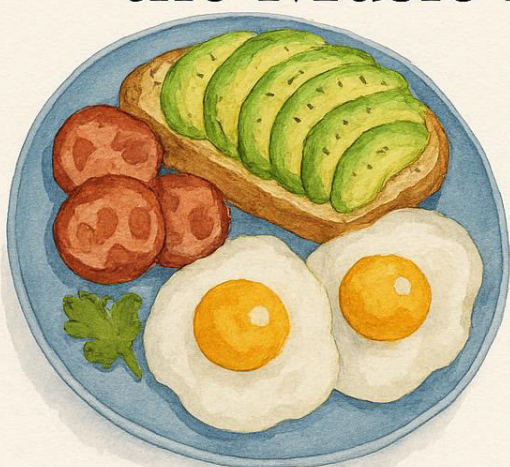
St. John's Music Ministry
cordially invites you to

Breakfast with the Music Ministry



Sunday,
October 12th
2025

beginning at
10:30AM
until 12PM



Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children over the age of 5. Tickets are available after service, in addition to contacting the church office, or the morning of the event.





FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE & WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Choosing Faith, Growing Together

Exciting times of learning and growing in faith don't just happen by chance—they happen because we open ourselves to the Spirit's work. Each time we seek to deepen our understanding and live more fully into Christ's way, we are choosing faith.

At St. John's, that rhythm of spiritual growth continues throughout the year. Faith Formation is expanding for children, youth, and adults, and this fall brings some especially meaningful opportunities. One highlight is our new Confirmation partnership with three UCC congregations, offering a rich and shared journey for our confirmand, Ryan Szoke.

Faith Formation flourishes when we are intentional. This season, we invite you to step into spaces where your spirit can be nurtured in fresh ways. Whether through study, conversation, reflection, or worship, these opportunities are designed to keep us rooted, connected, and inspired:

- Verso-Chat Lectionary Study – Wednesdays at 9am on Zoom
- Friendship Class – Sundays at 8:15am, a time for adult study and sharing

- Holy Moly Children's Faith Formation – during worship, beginning with the children's message, followed by engaging stories and activities with our leaders
- Confirmation Class (G.I.F.T.: Growing in Faith Together) – for youth, in collaboration with Grace UCC Allentown and UCC Greenawalds, meeting the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6–7:30pm

This fall, let's embrace the faith that both strengthens and challenges us. Together, we are building connections, nurturing one another, and growing in hope and love.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

"Increase our faith!" That's why we've come, isn't it? That's what worship is about. We come to lift up the name and glory of God in praise and prayer. We come to grow closer, stronger, deeper in our faith. So, as worship is prepared for these weeks, we begin a new series, the worship planning team invites us to think of strengthening faith. What tools can worship provide that can carry folks throughout the week in our journey of faith? We are formed through our prayer lives. We are also formed in community. When we gather for worship, we listen to and lean in toward other worshipers to hear the heart of God invite us deeper in faith.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Luke 17:5-10

Lectionary Readings:

Lamentations 1:1-6 and
Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137;
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Faith TO CHANGE



Worship is a moment in and of itself, but it connects to and feeds other moments in our lives and faith. This week – indeed, every week – focus on those connected moments as we come with others from around the globe to sit and feast at Christ's table of grace.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Luke 17:11-19



Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

In Luke 17, When Jesus asks, "Where are the other nine?" (verse 17), he isn't fishing for gratitude. Instead, he is declaring that gratitude that leads to praise is part of the way of the disciple.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Children & Youth Bible Presented

Luke 18:1-8



Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Psalm 119:97-104; Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Persistence. What does that mean for us in worship? Just the fact that we gather week after week when the community around us doesn't see the point might be a part of that persistence.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Luke 18:9-14



Lectionary Readings:

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65; Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

How shall we pray? This isn't the text where that question appears. But it does seem to be behind the parable that Jesus tells. What will it mean for us to have a humble faith?

Our St. John's Connection - Welcome Patti Skvoretz



On Sunday, September 21, we welcomed a new member who has been with us online since St. John's began offering worship during the COVID pandemic. Patti is the sister of Kathy Roth and a former member of Dubbs Memorial until she married. She returned to participate in worship with us when we were all looking for meaningful connections and has been worshipping with us on Sunday mornings ever since. Online or in the pews... "Whoever you are and

wherever you may be on life's journey, you are... WELCOME HERE!"



Save the Date!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

*Music, food &
good company*

Celebration of Bonnie's Ministry!

*Fun Surprises
too!*

SUNDAY

16
NOVEMBER

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Northampton Community Center
1601 Laubach Ave, Northampton, PA 18067

**YOUR PRESENCE WILL ADD TO THE FUN OF
BONNIE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!**

We Hope you will join us!



Bonnie!
Happy Retirement!

ASK THE PASTOR & ELDERS

4th Sundays following Worship

At St. John's, we value genuine communication. Taking time to ask thoughtful questions — and hearing honest responses — helps us grow in understanding and strengthens our life together as a community of faith.

This fall, Pastor Steve and the Elders are trying something new to encourage open dialogue. On September 28, October 26, and November 23, during our Sunday Social after worship, you'll have the chance to submit questions (yes, anonymous if you'd like!) on special cards provided. Questions can be directed to Pastor Steve and/or our Elders, and we'll begin responding to as many as possible right then and there.

Our hope is that this time will create space for curiosity, conversation, and connection — whether it's seeking clarity, sharing an idea, or offering a new perspective. Let's enjoy these moments of dialogue together as we deepen our love for Christ, for St. John's, and for one another.

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Milton Focht	Mary Jane Ott
Larry Albright	Sally Gibson	Helen Ryer
Phyllis Ambearle	Gus Geissinger	Bert Smith
Anita Beil	Lucille Hicks	Leona Snyder
Clarence Biehn	Geraldine Keim	Nancy Weaver
Sherry Castello	Bill Meckes	Bonnie Weikel
Shirley Downing	Dale Millham	
Jeanne Fischl	Karen Moyer	

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

St. John's Kitchen Corner



We're back! Beginning September 7, St. John's kitchen is back in full swing after a much-needed summer hiatus. The aroma of coffee and fresh baked goodies will be wafting up to the sanctuary luring us to Fox Hall after the service for our weekly Sunday Social Hour.

Please help us continue this very special time each Sunday by signing up to be a sponsor and supplying the goodies for the snack tables. It doesn't need to be a feast of food. It doesn't need to be a creative endeavor. It can be whatever you want to serve because St. John's people will eat anything, and we are grateful for it. Do not worry about drinks or paper products because the kitchen will supply those each week. But please help me in the kitchen to set up, serve and clean up afterward. Find a friend to help you be a sponsor or sign up as a group or committee. The consistory has already signed up to sponsor once each month.

I am here to help you and guide you in the kitchen. The Zumba class that meets in Fox Hall on Saturdays and Wednesdays has been gracious enough to help me set up each Saturday after their session. After Social Hour we need help putting the wiped down tables and chairs away for whatever the next event might be each week.

When planning your snacks please remember that we were averaging between 40-65 people each week. If you have any questions at all, please see me. I am here to help you. St. John's kitchen is a happy kitchen! Let's keep it smiling!

Colleen Kulhamer – Kitchen Manager

St John's 29th Annual Road Rally!

Sunday, October 19, 2025 At 1:30pm

Please join us for an afternoon of viewing the countryside, then meeting at a restaurant for supper. You may get lost along the way, but you will have fun, and you could win big prizes from the Dollar Store.

If you are participating, and we hope you will, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. Good luck!

If you have any questions, see Emilie or Tom Moyer.



ROAD RALLY

Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!

“SaveAround Lehigh Valley” Books

Whether you are shopping for restaurants (dining and fast food), clothing, sporting goods, fun and recreation activities, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, the SaveAround coupons make life more affordable and help St. John’s raise funds for the church. With the year more than half over and still plenty of coupons available, we’ve reduced the price of the coupon book from \$25 to only \$10. Please make checks payable to St. John’s. See Carol Raszler any Sunday morning before or after worship to make your purchase.



RaiseRight Gift Card Sales

You know the holidays are just around the corner when we start getting ready for our annual RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) gift card sale. What better way to shop for those on your gift list than with a RaiseRight gift card! It makes your shopping easy, and the gift cards cost so much less to send. While you’re shopping, don’t forget to add a few for yourself too. They’re great to keep on hand.

An order form is enclosed with this newsletter and can also be found on the church’s website and on the table in the lounge area. Your order form and check (payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton) can be mailed to the church office, put in the offering plate, or given to Karen Stoitsits. Deadline for your order and payment is October 31. Gift cards will be available for pick-up on or after December 1. If you have any questions, contact Karen Stoitsits at (610) 262-0746 or littlekdr@yahoo.com Happy shopping!!



RaiseRight™

New York, New York

Join your St John's friends and make a date to visit NYC during the holiday season . You may make reservations to see a play, visit the many outstanding museums, do some Christmas shopping at Bryant Park and watch the ice skaters or just do some window shopping. The city has fabulous restaurants , or visit the 8th floor at Macy's to see Santaland. Of course, check out the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center.



DECEMBER 13, 2025

Leaving St John's parking lot at 9am

Departing Rockefeller Center at 7:30pm

Arriving at St John's at 9:30pm

\$50.00 per person - Make checks payable to St John's - NYC

Money is due by November 9

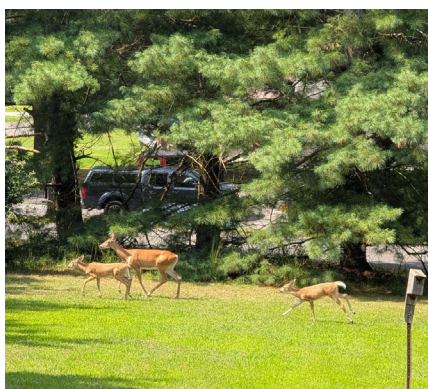


Friendship Bible Class News

It was a great day for a picnic! The Friendship Bible Class came together on Saturday, August 16, for their annual Sunday School picnic. Thank you to Paul and Carol Raszler for hosting the event at their cabin near Schuylkill Haven. Besides feasting on a lot of delicious food, fishing, playing quoits, it was also a time for fun, conversation, and fellowship. Some families pitched tents and camped for the entire weekend. The class also had some uninvited guests—a family of deer. The day ended with a gathering by the campfire. A good time was had by all.

You are cordially invited to attend this Adult Faith Formation Class (Sunday School) as they meet every Sunday at 8:30am. in Room 201. Different members teach each week and offer a variety of topics including Bible stories, scripture, parables, Bible characters, family traditions, current events, and much more. Stop in for a cup of coffee and refreshments and join in the discussion.





October

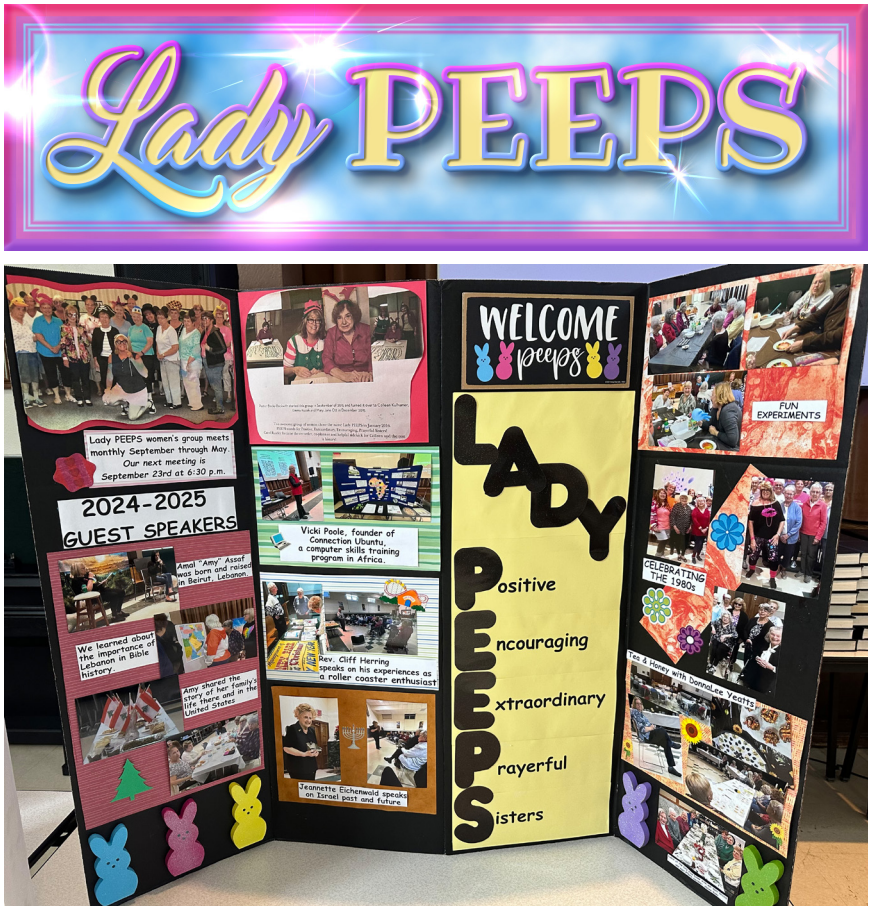
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
5 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	6	7 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	8 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
12 Newsletter deadline 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Breakfast with the Choir	13 Office closed INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY	14 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	15 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 5:00-9:00pm Dine Grove Street Catast 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
19 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 1:30pm Road Rally 2:30pm CROP Walk	20 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	21 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:00pm PEEPS	22 8:00am Boscov's D 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
26 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	27	28 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Class	29 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery

er 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	2 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30pm St. George Church School	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast-Ham Fam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	9 7:00pm Choir	10 5:30pm St. George Church School	11 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
with Pastor Steve Group and Donate at auqua Group k Hall Support-Room 302	16 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30pm St. George Church School 7:00pm Halloween Bingo	18 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall Walking Challenge ends
ay with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	23 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30pm St. George Church School	25 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	30 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	31 Trunk or Treat 5:30pm St. George Church School	

Lady PEEPS

The Lady PEEPS (Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters) women's group will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 21, at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. We will reflect on scripture for encouragement and direction, followed by time in small committees to plan activities for future meetings. But the bulk of the evening will be time to relax and socialize playing favorite board games. Ladies, join us for this joyful time of fellowship as we continue to grow our program! Refreshments will be served, and please use the elevator entrance.



Dear Friends of St. John's UCC,

Disasters often strike without warning, but thanks to your generous contribution (\$869.00), Church World Service will be better prepared to provide emergency assistance when and where it is needed. Your support with funds and supplies for CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets and your foresight mean that we can quickly and effectively get supplies into the hands of the people who need them after a crisis.

Rebuilding from a disaster is tough, but we have repeatedly witnessed the resilience and strength of the women, men, and children who rise in the wake of an emergency. I am so moved by your generosity as you join us in standing with them and providing hope.

May God bless you for your support,

Rick Santos
President & CEO
Church World Service

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, emails, and made phone calls after my recent knee surgery. Your concern and get well wishes surely helped in my recovery. It is a blessing to be part of this caring St. John's Family.

Carol Raszler

Reminder: Pastie Sale Pickup

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our fall Pastie Sale. Pickup in Fox Hall is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, from 6pm to 8pm and on Sunday, October 5, following worship. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. John's is blessed to have people who generously share their time and talents, creating lasting spiritual treasures for others in times of challenge, illness and need. For many years, knitters and those who crochet have created beautiful prayer shawls and quilted prayer squares to be shared with members and others connected to our faith community.

Our pastors and others have taken the shawls to those in the hospitals and care centers. They've been shared with people who have been diagnosed with cancer or some other life threatening illness. They've been shared with our senior adults and with a few children and young people facing great bodily challenges as a reminder of our love and the presence of God with them.

Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held and a few others have graciously shared their time and talents over the years. This Fall, we want to revive this meaningful ministry and put the shawls to use to bring blessings to others. Perhaps you've seen the display in the sanctuary level elevator lobby and coat area. We have an additional tub of shawls prepared and ready to be shared. We want to begin incorporating them into our time of preparation for worship and have them distributed.

If you have a person you would like to have receive a prayer shawl from St. John's, simply contact the church office and share the person's name to receive the gift. We will have the shawl available for anyone in the congregation to come and pray over it before the service begins. They will be named during the Prayers of the People time in worship, and then following the service, the person who requested the prayer shawl may take it to deliver to the one in need. Pastor Steve or any of our other leaders can assist you with this as needed.

Help us extend God's love, healing presence and comfort to others. If you crochet, knit or quilt, please let the church office know and we will gladly include you in this meaningful ministry of support and prayer.





Bosco's Shopping Pass

"Friends Helping Friends"

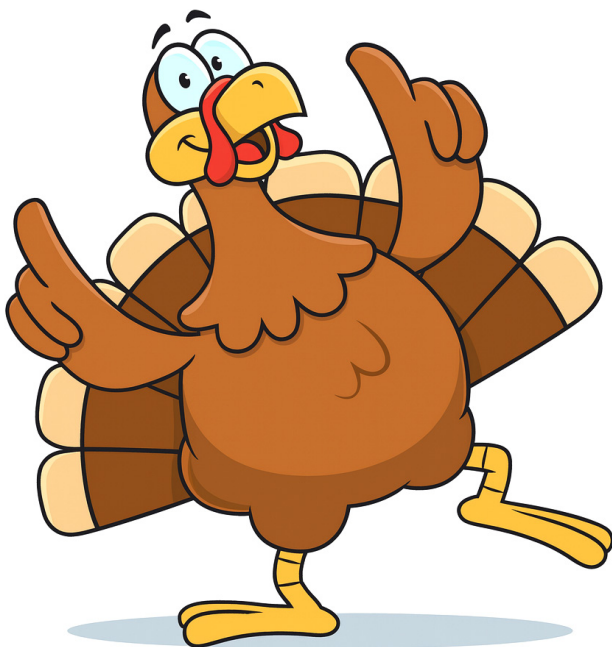
A big shopping day could be yours at Bosco's. It's for Wednesday, October 22, from 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's, and the church gets to keep the funds. This pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price, in-store and online, and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions. Present the pass at check-out and receive your discount. Also register for a chance to win a \$100 Bosco's gift card by scanning the QR code on the shopping pass with your phone. To get your pass, see Ginny Brokenshire or Carol Raszler before or after worship.

A Word About Our Annual Nut & Fruit Sale

We are sorry to share that there will not be a Nut & Fruit Sale this year. After many years of serving churches and community groups, Terrilynn—the company we have always relied on—closed its business at the end of June. Our "Fun-Raising" Committee explored several other suppliers, but we found that none offered the full range of products we have carried before. In addition, prices were much higher, packages were smaller, and shipping costs would need to be added. For these reasons, our committee determined that continuing this fundraiser is not practical at this time. Questions may be directed to Carol Raszler.

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

During the upcoming holidays, many of you will win turkeys, get them as gifts, or earn them with the supermarket rewards program. If you would like to donate your turkey for our fundraising events, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 to make arrangements.



Deadline for November Newsletter

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

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

[Style guide recommendations here](#)



God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study Group
Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

Looking for a new way to connect with Scripture? Verso-Chat offers a welcoming, weekly space to explore the upcoming lectionary texts with curiosity, honesty, and an openness to God's still-speaking voice.

Gather with us on Wednesday mornings for thoughtful, Spirit-led conversation, whether you're new to Bible study or looking for something that goes beyond the traditional. Verso-Chat continues to open God's still-speaking word to our lives today! Our group time is recorded and available on request for viewing. Interested in an evening group? Let Pastor Steve know. We're always open to growing!

In the closing months of the Season of Pentecost, the scriptures take us to stories of God's beloved community on earth and how we grow in faith, committed to deepen our love for God and each other as a community. Everyone is welcome. Click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to learn more. Come and discover something new in God's Word today!

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



VERSO-CHAT

Welcome CLIU #21 Work-Based Learning Students!

St. John's UCC Fullerton is excited to partner with the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit (CLIU #21) in their Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program. This initiative supports local students with disabilities, ages 18–21, by giving them hands-on job experience and helping them build skills for adult life.

We're pleased to welcome Nemargely, Agustin, and Luis, along with their job coaches and medical staff. They'll be with us once a week throughout the school year, helping with short-term projects and cleaning tasks.

The program promotes responsibility, independence, and social skills while connecting our congregation with individuals of unique abilities. Staff and committees are encouraged to contact Coordinating Custodian Michelle Gutekunst with project ideas or questions.

We look forward to learning and growing together through this partnership!

Michelle Gutekunst, Coordinating Custodian



Helping Children Learn



WORK-BASED LEARNING

Giant, Weis, Redner's - You Can Make It Happen!

Whether you shop at the grocery store, order online, or have your groceries delivered, we all need groceries. 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." At the beginning of September, we turned in tapes amounting to \$5,235.80, which means that St. John's will be receiving a check for \$52.36. 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 register tapes or submit receipts from other stores. If you have any questions, contact Karen Stoitsits.

GIANT®



REDNER'S
WAREHOUSE MARKETS

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.

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

Pastie Pickup – Thursday, October 2 from 6pm to 8pm. & **Sunday, October 5**, after worship. Come to Fox Hall & kitchen. See Carol.

Dine & Donate at Grove St. Pub & Grill – Wednesday, October 15 – 5pm to 9pm. Located at 1092 Howertown Rd., Catasauqua. It’s Clam Night! **Flyer needed.** See Pastor Steve.

Halloween Gift Card Bingo – Friday, October 17 – Doors open at 6pm; games begin at 7pm. Food available to purchase. 50/50 & Tricky Tray. \$20 In advance; \$25 at the door. Get your tickets now. See Tom.

29th Annual Road Rally – Sunday, October 19 – Meet at 1:30pm at church. Follow the route and arrive at a restaurant for supper. Signup sheet on bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. See Tom.

Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” – Wednesday, October 22 – 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5 pass (offering 25% in sales) and the church keeps the funds. See Carol.

RaiseRight Gift Cards – Order form & payment due no later than Sunday, October 31. Order form in newsletter, website, table in lounge. See Karen.

St. John’s Bazaar – Saturday, November 8 – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. Deadline is October 26 to bring in items you no longer want or need. List of items needed in newsletter, website, or bulletin. See Amy or Carol.

Movie & Ice Cream Night – Saturday, December 6 – 6pm in Fox Hall. Details coming shortly. See Pastor Steve or Bill.

Bus Trip to NYC – Saturday, December 13 – Tour the “Big Apple” on your own. Bus leaves 9am from St. John’s and from NYC at 7pm. Drop off at Times Square by Rockefeller Center. Reserve your seat \$50.00. See Amy, Brian F., or Pastor Steve.

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

Redner’s Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. Please do not roll the register tapes or submit receipts from other stores. See Karen.

Coming Soon: Applebee’s Burgers-for-a-Cause Coupons & SaveAround 2026 Books

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

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
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119



Deadline to receive items is Sunday, October 26

Listed below are the kinds of items we are collecting:

- Small Appliances
- Glassware
- Pots & Pans
- Attic Treasures
- Household Furnishings
- Purses
- Books
- Jewelry
- Puzzles
- CDs
- Kitchen Utensils
- Seasonal Decor
- Craft Supplies
- Knick Knacks
- Tools
- Dishes
- Linens
- Toys & Games

If you have items that fit these categories that you no longer want or need, please bring them in and drop them off in the office or in Rooms 303 & 306. Items must be clean and in working order. All sales, except 10% for Mission, will go towards St. John's and meeting this year's budget.

Please note that we are not collecting the following: clothing, encyclopedias, magazines, records, bowling balls, computers, monitors, printers, and large furniture.

If you would like more information on this event; have a question on what we are collecting; need items to be picked up; or would like to volunteer to help, please contact our co-chairs Amy Feidler and Carol Raszler. Amy can be reached at (835) 210-5944 alfeidler@gmail.com and Carol at (610) 393-7572 craszler@aol.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9AM TO 2 PM IN FOX HALL

CRAFTS, ATTIC & YARD SALE TREASURES

BAKE & CANDY SALE & FOOD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

Homebound Ministry - Christmas Gifts Bags

Each year our Homebound Ministry tries to find some small items of cheer to share with our members who can no longer be in worship and other activities with us. These cherished friends love the ways we remember and include them in our holiday celebrations. Whether it is some warm slippers or a cozy blanket, snack or stationary, they always appreciate the people of St. John's sharing their wishes of care and support.

St. John's members have shared generously in years past, so much so that last year, the Homebound Ministry needed very little support from the congregation. This year, our numbers have increased, and we will be preparing 30 bags to share. During the month of October, we invite you to share a gift for our Homebound Bags which will be assembled and shared in early December. Please make your donations noted accordingly. Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity and love shared all year, and especially in the Christmas season.

The Visitation / Homebound Ministry

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 **October 4 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email QVRRBold@aol.com

October Birthdays

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

10/2	Joy Gravely Kirby Hower Riley Kulhamer Linda Smith	10/17	Rev Evelyn Stupp Andria Dallago Amy Feidler
10/3	Eireann Hunsicker Patricia Schaffer	10/18	Barbara Seyfried
10/4	Michael Buskirk	10/19	Jo Ann Sutter
10/5	Bailey Kulhamer Sharon Romberger	10/20	Dee Schlenker
10/6	Joan Phillips	10/21	Nicole Fox
10/7	Gary George Mark Geroulo Sr Ted Hess Charles Schwenk	10/23	Isabella Pagan
10/8	James Leibensperger Gary D Neitz Janice Walenta	10/24	Robert Dougherty Wilbur Kline
10/9	Randy Bachman Gary Hallman Ann Patterson	10/25	Michael Baatz David Brown Brinlee Neitz
10/10	Mike Borgman Robert Young	10/27	Donna Herring Marlene Kocher
10/11	Kendal Clewell	10/28	Kristine Gersbach Barbara Menges Janet Miller Randy Schlenker
10/13	Abby Chryst Hoffman	10/30	Melanie Beck Nancy Keister Carol Olson Jacob Powell
10/15	Katelyn Orlowsky Barbara Seeds	10/31	Stacy Sommer Gary Weaver Arbula Dotter



October Wedding Anniversaries

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

10/1	10/16
Kevin & Melody Fox	Brian & Tracy Fisher
10/2	10/18
Margaret & Robert Young	Elwood & Patricia Thompson
10/9	10/20
Ronald & Ann Patterson	William & Kathy Roth Sr.
10/10	10/26
Kevin & Kaitlyn Weidner	MaryBeth & Michael McNicholas
Kirby & Lorraine Hower	10/27
James & Andrea Leibensperger	Michael & Joy Gravely
10/14	10/30
Christopher & Jennifer Kuhns	Susan & Keith Kaider
Jeffrey & Barbara Seeds	





Neighbors in Need

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ." ~ Galatians 6:2*

This scripture, from Paul's letter to the Galatians, highlights a dynamic many of us face when we help others or receive help. There's a difference between helping someone and taking over for them. It can be both challenging and a source of comfort to receive care. Giving and receiving is an integral part of justice ministries. Our churches share compassion by not only providing for the basic needs of our neighbors but also asking deeper questions about why these inequalities exist in the first place. When the UCC gathers to collect the Neighbors in Need offering, it works to honor this complexity.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). It has been witnessing to Native values and culture as a vital part of the UCC since 1971.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a special offering envelope and insert. The NIN offering will be received at worship on Sunday, October 5, and continue to the end of October.



Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Hunger Walks are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger locally and around the world. This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, starting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott Street in Allentown. Walkers are needed and church members can sponsor our walkers with your donations. There are two options for walkers – A 10K route and the "Golden Mile" route through the Hamilton Park neighborhood.

The CROP Hunger Walk helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. CROP Walk funds also support Church World Service's life-saving disaster assistance, displacement assistance, and long-term development assistance with our neighbors throughout the United States and around the globe.

If you would like to make a contribution to the CROP Walk or sponsor one of our walkers, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio before or after worship. Checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP with "CROP Hunger Walk Sponsor" in the memo section. Donations can also be sent into the church office, by online giving, or texting. Special offering envelopes will be placed in the bulletin on September 28 and October 12.

The Mission Committee is coordinating this event with our Healthcare Ministry and its Walking Challenge event. The Walking Challenge started on Sunday, September 21, and will end on Saturday, October 18.



Whitehall Food Pantry

When we Serve, we make a Difference! Our church is a proud and a continuing contributor to the Whitehall Food Pantry.

For the months of October and November, we are collecting boxed or packaged stuffing mix for the patrons' Thanksgiving dinners. Bring what you can by early November and place items in the shopping cart found in the coat room area by the sanctuary. Monetary donations are always accepted as there will be no grocery gift cards issued this year due to budget cuts.

Should you consider volunteering in the morning or evening of the 4th Monday of the month, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 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, October 5	St. John's the Baptist Church	3024 S. Ruch St., Whitehall	(610) 262-2260
Tuesday, October 21	St. John's the Baptist Church Meal provided by WAWA	3024 S. Ruch St., Whitehall	(610) 262-2260
Sunday, November 2	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Tuesday, November 18	St. John's Lutheran Church Meal provided by Samuel Owens Rest.	18 S. 3rd St., Coplay	(484) 695-3696

Other Outreaches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “Severe Storms” Disaster Relief in July and August. A total of \$585.00 was received and sent to UCC National for continuing relief and recovery efforts.

Mitten Tree “Operation Santa” Coming Soon

Look for more information in the November newsletter. The Mission Committee will give you details on how to make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate as we begin our “Operation Santa” outreach for Phoebe Ministries and Pinebrook Family Answers.

How did St. John’s Family do?

Mission	August 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 1,026.00	\$7,835.00	\$8,703.00	\$8,520.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 113.00	\$2,228.00	\$2,365.00	\$3,255.00
Disaster Fund/Severe Storms	\$ 400.00	\$ 585.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for August 2025 totaled \$1,539.00 and YTD giving totaled \$14,797.00.





St. John's Fall Walking Challenge is Underway

The 2025 St. John's Fall Walking Challenge has started and lasts through Saturday, October 18. Please plan to participate. Walking is one of the best exercises you can do for a healthier lifestyle. You must sign up by contacting Sharon Antrim, sharonantrim@yahoo.com or call me at (610) 216-6207. All you need is a pedometer (your phone likely has one!), keep track of your steps from morning to evening, then report the total for the week by Saturday evenings. Looking forward to another great challenge.

Sharon Antrim
Healthcare Ministry

HALLOWEEN BINGO!



**\$50-\$100
Giftcard
Prizes!**

OCT. 17

**Doors open - 6pm
Games begin - 7pm**

- Tricky Tray•
- 50/50 Drawings•
- Food Available•

TICKETS: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

ST. JOHN'S UCC - FULLERTON 575 GRAPE STREET (610) 264-8421

BUDGET UPDATE

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Aug 2025

Income	Electronic	8/3/2025	8/10/2025	8/17/2025	8/24/2025	8/31/2025	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$7,089.47	\$3,007.00	\$1,959.00	\$1,493.00	\$1,892.00	\$2,923.00	\$18,363.47
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,325.50		\$47.00				\$1,372.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp			\$315.00	\$134.00		\$35.50	\$484.50
Endowment Interest							\$0.00
Flowers			\$25.00		\$25.00	\$58.95	\$108.95
Faith Formation	\$20.00						\$20.00
Special Gifts	\$350.00						\$350.00
Total	\$8,784.97	\$3,007.00	\$2,346.00	\$1,627.00	\$1,917.00	\$3,017.45	\$20,699.42

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,374.79	\$10,258.50	\$(116.29)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,491.77	\$9,429.75	\$(62.02)
Building Services	\$5,501.90	\$4,612.50	\$(889.40)
Faith Formation	\$123.00	\$104.17	\$(18.83)
Parish Programs	\$1,686.90	\$1,869.25	\$182.35
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$27,178.36	\$26,274.17	\$(904.19)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$20,699.42	\$211,765.63
Total Expenses	\$27,178.36	\$206,082.30
*****	Net INCOME (LOSS)	*****
	\$ (6,478.94)	\$ 5,683.33

Mission Giving, Aug 2025

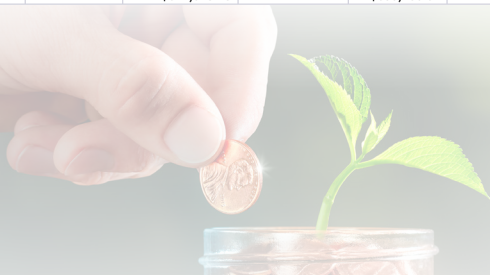
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,026.00		
UCC Severe Storms	\$400.00		
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$113.00		
Total	\$1,539.00		

St John's UCC Fullerton

Account Balances

For Month Ending, Aug 2025

Account	Jul-25	Aug-25	Difference
Checking Account	\$67,949.56	\$69,466.11	\$1,516.55
Giant Card Funds	\$1,357.76	\$2,257.76	\$900.00
Weis Card Funds	\$151.00	\$876.00	\$725.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$69,458.32	\$72,599.87	\$3,141.55
Restricted/Property Checking	\$36,704.87	\$36,190.25	\$(514.62)
Restricted/Property Investments	\$80,816.00	\$81,092.00	\$276.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$117,520.87	\$117,282.25	\$(238.62)
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$536,196.00	\$546,817.00	\$10,621.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$723,175.19	\$736,699.12	\$13,523.93
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(81,552.04)	\$(81,432.50)	\$119.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(81,552.04)	\$(81,432.50)	\$119.54
NET FUND BALANCE	\$641,623.15	\$655,266.62	\$13,643.47





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



The
October 2025
edition of St. John's
CONNECTIONS
is sponsored by
Emilie and Tom Moyer:
In Honor of
our Children
and Grandchildren