



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

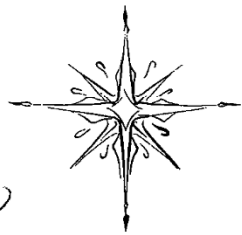
575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

December 2019 & January 2020



Bob C

To the Family at St. John's UCC, Fullerton



Christmas is...

Christmas is a miracle.

Christmas is about a child.

Christmas is when hope became reality.

Christmas is when God blessed those who were poor.

Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas is about the sacredness of scripture becoming reality.

Christmas is the season when God took on the human form of a child.

I hope you will bring in the Christmas season with your church family on Christmas Eve. We will sing the carols and light the candles and feel the presence of God with us.

If you want to capture the Spirit, then be with us on Christmas eve 6:00 and 9:00.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season

from the entire Consistory and Staff of St. John's!

Wendy

Sharon C.

Maureen

Ted

Phyllis

Jenn

Erinann

Bob D.

Marion A

Brian

Gary

Pat

Brandon

Colleen K. &

Sue

Tom

Dan

Green

Susan Kuder

Paul

Emilie

Paul

Dave

Michelle

Amy Michelle G.

Thank You!!!



Thank You St. John's!

'Enjoy This Life' I'm Going To!!!

WOW!!! I was completely amazed on November 10th as over 400 came to worship when we celebrated the ministry of Pastor and People. We truly have had a blessed ministry together. So much has happened. One thing that remains clear is that God has been very present in our midst!

Thank you for the Day of Celebration! The committee did an outstanding job. I thought we would have 200 present, they thought much bigger. Over 400 individuals came to worship! 62 children were present for the Children's Message – more than I can ever remember!!! The choirs sang like angels. The dancers – touched my heart. Those that participated? I give God thanks for each and everyone of you! It was a joy to have retired PNEC Minister and member Rev. Alan Miller with us and also retired Associate Conference Minister Jane Joyce. People from all aspects of my life were there and I still am overwhelmed by the love.

The party was awesome! The fancy food, the decorations, the skits, the toast, the packed Fox Hall... so many, many details were beautify addressed – it was a class act! I especially appreciated the opportunity to talk with so many.

The very, very generous monetary gift will be used toward future travel – as was suggested. How extremely kind of all of you. I also received a multitude of gift cards, retirement cards, and more. Most I was able to write a Thank You note, but some cards/gifts became blended together. If I did not send you a card, please know I am so very grateful for each and every kind thought and gift – thank you. I spent 4 hours reading and opening cards Sunday afternoon. I read every single comment. I am so incredibly humbled by the remembrances and your kindnesses.

How can I say thank you for 14+ years? I simply do not know how... We have been a good match, incredible things happened at St. John's. The love never goes away.... But I will go away as your Sr. Pastor. I will no longer be doing the rites and sacraments for St. John's. That will now be the privilege of Pastors Dave and Michelle. They are both outstanding pastors and down-to-earth good people. Treat them as kindly as you treated me. And soon, we pray, an Intentional Interim will be serving St. John's. That individual will bring guidance for the future.

November 10th 2019 will always be one of the very best days of my life. You honored me and your words touched my very soul. It was the Ultimate God Moment. Thank you for allowing me to be your Sr. Pastor and thank you for supporting my decision to retire from this position. Blessings St. John's! Do good things! Make God smile! I love you all!!!

Blessings and Love,

Dec. 2019 + Jan. 2020

Vol. 12 Issue 12

*"Our Church
Connection"*

Office:

610-264-8421

Fax: 610-264-4300

Email:

stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com

website:

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

Church Hospital Code: 473

	Page
*Thank You Notes	2-4
*Our Church Family	5-7
*Church News	8-14
*Music Notes	15
*CE & Youth	16-17
*Healthcare	18
*Mission Moment	19-20
*Worship Schedule	21-23
*Copperhead Grille	24
*Staff/Consistory	25

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

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

The Retirement Party Committee would like to thank everyone involved with this amazing event that celebrated our beloved Pastor Becky's retirement on Sunday, November 10th! Thank you especially to our kitchen crew and the servers, kitchen help and everyone who helped clean up. What you all did was phenomenal from start to finish. The hours spent on the planning, preparing, serving and clean up can never be repaid except in our gratitude. Everything was flawless from beginning to end. St. John's is blessed to have such hard working, special people.



A big thank you goes out to Jordan Spring who played tirelessly for 2 hours and truly set the mood for a cheerful and upbeat atmosphere! Such talented musicians and caring souls! To all of the bakers in the congregation who shared all of those delightful desserts and finger sandwiches, we thank you so much! St. John's knows how to make us smile with deliciousness! To our congregation, thank you for Being the Church, for showing up in great numbers on Becky's special day and giving from your hearts for both the party and for Becky's Gift! May God bless Pastor Becky and May God bless St. John's!

The BRP Committee,
Sharon Czekner, Pastor Michelle Funk, Jinny Hess, Susan Kuder, Colleen Kulhamer, Emilie Moyer,
Connie Viglione and Jill Williams



To St. John's UCC, Fullerton family,

Through your generous donations for the shut-in gifts, \$651.00 was received which will be used to buy Christmas gifts for them.

Thank you very much!
The Visitation Committee

PNEC YEA Fund Grant Awarded

Thank you to the PNEC! Our youth group mission trip crew was awarded a grant by the Youth and Adult Empowerment fund team in the amount of \$396.00. This grant was awarded to defer the expense of the mission trip and will be placed in the youth group fundraising fund to go toward subsidizing future youth group events and trips.

Newsletter

Deadline

In order to save on postage, paper and time, you will be receiving the January/February newsletter in the middle of January and it will include the second half of January and all of February activities.

*The articles for the
January/February 2020 newsletter
are due on January 12th.*

Change of Address

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Deigert
215 Elm Street
Pen Argyl, PA 18072-1317

Mrs. Doris Walgren
36 Denise Drive
Kinnelon, NJ 07405-2951



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Please call the church office or send the Office Administrator an email at Stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com

Hospital Admission Policies

When being admitted to an area hospital please inform them your church code is 473.

Please have a member of your family also call and let us know you have been hospitalized.



Susan, our Office

Administrator calls the hospitals daily but sometimes is not told of a member's admittance. We want to visit and pray for all of our members. Help us to know when you need us! Call the church and pastor.

*Hospital Code for
our church - 473*

Dear Pastor Becky,

We cannot thank you enough for your help and guidance for the Celebration of Life Service for Roger Cocivera. You very much made a very sorrowful day much easier to cope with.

Most sincerely,
The family of Roger Cocivera

Dear Visitation Committee,

Thank you for your prayers and kind deeds. You bring joy to many people. Your visits, gifts, and kindness are very much appreciated.

Also a blessing to Pastor Becky, St. John's family and Pastor Quinn for communion and visits.

Peace and Love,
Marietta E. Seyfried

In Case of Bad Weather

If the church has to cancel its Sunday services due to inclement weather, we will list the closing on Channel 69 news or you can go to their website at www.wfmz.com



The Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant in Allentown. We would be pleased to have you join us.

December's meeting is December 7th at 8:30AM.

St. John's Live Nativity 2019

Please join us on Saturday evening, December 21st as we celebrate the birth of Jesus during our live re-enactment of the Nativity. The first performance will begin at 6:00pm with a repeat performance at 7:00pm.



Pick the time that suits your schedule the best, or come and stay for both. After each nativity, you are invited to join everyone in Fox Hall for refreshments.

We would appreciate any donations of baked goods to be used as refreshments that evening. If you would like to help with this event in any way, please contact DonnaLee Yeatts or Noreen Miller. Or, sign-up on the sheet in the church coat room.

Our Church Family



Correction:

In last month's newsletter we reported incorrect information. The following is the correct information - **Gabrianna Marie Thompson** was born on October 2nd to parents Eric Thompson and Melanie Bayer. Pat and Woody Thompson are Gabrianna's grandparents.

We apologize for the error.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Shelby Bright and Joseph Bedics** on their wedding October 31st. Shelby is the daughter of Kathy Bright and the late Martin Bright.

Upcoming Baptism

December 8th - **Gabrianna Thompson**

Birth

Melanie Rose Beck was born to first time parents Shayanne and Spenser Beck on October 30th at Lehigh Valley Muhlenberg. She weighed 6lbs. 13.3oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Melanie's grandparents are Julie and Conrad Beck.



Deaths

Judy Eberhart died on October 20th. We celebrated her life at St. John's on October 26th. Judy was married to Owen. She had two sons Chad and Scott.

Jean Roberts died on November 2nd. We celebrated her life on November 8th. Jean had a daughter Debra Johnston.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Jean and Judy.

Congratulations To Rev. George Eckstein

Pastor George was elected Pastor at St. Mark's UCC in Allentown. He begins serving part time in December. George was our Visitation Pastor for seven years. We wish George and St. Mark's well.

Consistory Retreat

The 2020 Consistory will begin their time together on Saturday, January 11, 2020 here at St. John's for the annual Consistory retreat. Your consistory works hard to get to know each other, understand each other's journey and find ways we can work to serve God and our family of faith. This year they will work hard to ensure that this pastoral transition time goes smoothly. Please pray for the consistory and our staff as they lead this coming year!

December Anniversaries

December 8 – Nicole & John McWilliams – 1 year
December 11 – Anne Welsh & Joseph Trippett – 9 years
December 17 – Cheryl & Gary Weaver – 14 years
December 18 – Melissa & Chad Eberhart – 9 years
December 20 – Natalee & Joel Kilpatrick – 11 years
December 21 – Melanie & Edward Eckert – 7 years
December 22 –
 Barbara Thomas & Eugene Gallagher – 29 years
December 27 – Janice & Walter Walenta – 10 years
December 28 – Patricia & Gerald Yanavok – 8 years
December 29 – Regina & Peter Mohr – 35 years
December 31 - Barbara & Kevin Hoderman – 9 years

January Anniversaries

January 24 –
Carole & Dennis O’Connell – 50 years
January 27 –
Shelby & Brent Nailor – 8 years
January 30 –
Doris & Ronald Smith – 49 years



We Will Miss You/She is Retired - words sung by the "BFlats" Staff at Pastor Becky's Retirement Party...

Becky you're a joy, you're a real joy, Sitting on the beach, gonna be a great ocean view,
You got a glass in your hand, toes in the sand, Watching the kids doing lots of handstands singing
We will, we will, miss you. We will, we will miss you.

Becky you are loved, you are the best, Your sermons are better than all the rest.
You've a smile on your face, You're full of grace, Waving your hands all over the place
We will, we will miss you. We will, we will miss you.

Becky you're the great one, great one, Having lots of plans, gonna get you some wine today.
You've got a glow on your face, end the rat race, You can now move at a slower pace.
We will, we will miss you. We will, we will miss you. We will, we will miss you. We will, we will miss you

Been 15 years, Time went so fast, She has done a lot, But we have to say goodbye.
Life is good, Enjoy retirement, She's had her share of great memories, oh yeah, And much more too!
She is retired my friends, And we'll keep on loving her till the end, She is retired, she is retired,
No time for meetings, cause she is retired from St. John's.

She did her last sermon, And sang one last hymn, She's baptized babies and children of all ages, She done it all
But it's been no bed of roses, no pleasure cruise, she's had the staff to deal with everyday, and it can be a zoo.
She is retired my friends, And we'll keep on loving her till the end, She is retired, She is retired
More time to spend with Bob, And they will now..... enjoy life

She is retired, my friends, and we'll keep on loving her till the end
She is retired, she is retired, More time to spend with Bob, And they will now enjoy life

Christmas Cards to Our Shut Ins

Please wish these members who are shut-ins or in assisted living a “Merry Christmas” by sending them a Christmas card.



ABOVE AND BEYOND SENIOR LIVING

1545 W. Greenleaf St., Allentown 18102

*Edith Crews ~ Room 306

CEDARBROOK, ALLENTOWN

350 S. Cedarbrook Road, Allentown 18104

*Theresa Kuhns ~ Rm 721A

*Virginia Owens ~ D323B

*Renee Spielman ~ D6 Bed 12A

EASTON NURSING CENTER

498 Washington St., Easton 18042

*Henry Moll ~ Room 230

FELLOWSHIP MANOR

3000 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall 18052

*Barry Everett ~ Room 325

*June Pope ~ Rm 104B

*Sara Siegfried – Room 126A

*June Tomb – Room 119

GRACEDALE

2 Gracedale Avenue, Nazareth 18064

*Sandra Diefenderfer – Tower 10, Room 10C2

GREENFIELD SENIOR LIVING

1415 St. Francis Road, Bel Air, MD 21014

*Frank Nolt – Room #5

PARKLAND MANOR -

4636 Crackersport Rd., Allentown 18104

*Elaine Lentz ~ Room 9

PHOEBE HOME

1925 W. Turner Street, Allentown 18104

*Ray Lane ~ Room 107A

*Anna Walbert ~ Room 211 – Miller Bldg.

UNITED ZION RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

722 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

*Roberta Haberern

WHITEHALL MANOR

1177 6th Street, Whitehall 18052

*Anita Beil ~ C106

*Annamae Folk – C85

WILKES BARRE VA MEDICAL CENTER

1111 East End Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

*Harry Houser ~ Rm 129A

HOMEBOUND

*Betty Blöse ~ 7022 Rotterdam Square, Bethlehem 18017

*Donald Downing ~ 720 N. 27th St., Allentown, 18104

*Nancy Eichman ~

2202 Second Ave., #2, Whitehall 18052

*Ruth Eli ~ 7316 W. Hillcrest Lane, Slatington 18080

*Fae Erney ~ 2574 Halleck Dr., Whitehall, 18052

*Sylvia Hafer ~ 2574 Halleck Dr., Whitehall, 18052

*Louiseann Hein ~ 736 N. 7th St., Allentown, 18102

*Lucille Hicks ~

1210 Broad Street, Apt. 2, Whitehall 18052

*Muriel Kloiber ~ 861 Sixth Street, Whitehall, 18052

*Thomas Miller ~ 3005 East Boulevard, Apt. 5,
Bethlehem, 18017

*Marietta Seyfried ~

1210 Broad Street, Apt. 5, Whitehall, 18052

*Bert Smith ~ 3114 N. 5th St., Whitehall, 18052

*Eleanor Smith ~ Robinwood Village,

407 Manchester Rd., Saylorsburg, 18353

*Robert Weaver ~ 2012 Lehigh Avenue, Whitehall 18052

*Ethel Weiland ~

7566 Molasses Barrel Rd., Slatington, 18080

*Ruth Wittman ~ 2339 S. Lumber St., Allentown, 18103

OUT OF TOWN

*Marie Fatzinger ~ Providence Place,

2200st Avenue, #346, Pottsville, PA 17901

*Peggy Snyder ~ Providence Place, 2200 1st Avenue

Pottsville, PA 17901

Check out our website!
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

Church News



December Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:45AM Advent Theme: “A Christmas Carol Advent”

During worship this Advent season we will explore the advent scriptures while reflecting on the beloved Christmas classic, “A Christmas Carol”. We will explore Christmas past, present, and future as we wait for the birth of Jesus. This series will also help us to prepare ourselves as we begin pastoral transition within our church. We will celebrate the past, honor our present and look toward future ministry together as we continue to “Be the Church!” The worship services will include concepts from Matt Rawle’s book “The Redemption of Scrooge: Connecting Christ and Culture”

December 1st (Christmas Past) Hebrews 11 (selected verses)

We will explore the Ghost of Christmas Past. Join us as we explore the Faith leaders in the Hebrew Bible, the people of faith that have been a part of our own past and as a church and followers of Jesus Christ. We will be exploring what we have learned and how we have grown from our challenges and celebrations.



December 8th (Christmas Present) Romans 15:4-7

Let’s visit the Ghost of Christmas Present. We will acknowledge that we carry what we have learned in the past with us in the present. We will rest in our present, what our current situation is as individuals and as a church.

December 15th (Christmas Future) James 5:7-10, Revelation 1:4

We will find hope in the Ghost of Christmas future! Looking toward the future as faith filled individuals. Continuing our journey as a church, guided by the Spirit and following the example of Jesus Christ as we continue to “Be the Church” through this transition period and beyond!

December 22nd

8:15AM –Sermon in Song! Join us as we sing some favorite Christmas hymns learning a little bit about each hymn along the way! Let’s make a joyful noise together as we continue to anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ!

10:45AM – KidZJAM & Youth Christmas pageant as part of worship

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29th 9:30AM (One Service) - Rev. Becca Stephens preaching

January Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:45AM

January 5th Matthew 2:1-12

January 12th Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th

January 26th

Thanksgiving Eve Service November 27th at 7:00PM

We will be offering a Thanksgiving Eve worship time. Pastors Dave and Michelle will lead this service. It is time to think about all the many blessings in our lives and in our church.



The Bible studies are on Wednesdays, December 4, December 11 and December 18 starting at 10:30AM in Room 201. Rev. David Mohr will be leading the Bible Study.

Anyone interested can head to City Vu Diner for lunch together after the Bible Study. Watch the bulletins for more details.

"Let It Go" Worship Service

Our annual Let It Go worship service is planned for **Thursday, December 5 at 7 PM** in the sanctuary. We'll gather to experience God's hope and healing in the midst of grief, relationship or job loss or other life transitions/events that weigh us down.

As in the past, the service will include hymns and special music, Scripture and reflection, prayers and anointing. This service is open to all so please plan to attend!

Advent Offering

As in past years, each Advent season St. John's gives you the opportunity to remember your church during this busy season by using the enclosed Advent envelope. We hope you will consider using this envelope to support and give thanks for the many ways St. John's has impacted your life.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee extends to you and your family our best wishes for a joyful Christmas. Remember, God is Good, All the Time!

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th

6:00 pm & 9:00 pm

"Come hear the story!
God bless us, everyone!"

Please join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child. Both of our services will include candle lighting and lots of music. The children and youth will be singing at the 6:00 pm service. The 9:00 pm service will include adult choirs and Holy Communion.

We will hear the story . . . a story of joy and blessing... the story of the birth of a child the Christ child!



Ideas On How To Live A Better Life:

On November 3rd, the All Saints Day sermon ended with a story of how one might live more simply. Pastor Becky's message ended by sharing positive improvements we might consider making.

The story was from an internet site that listed author as unknown.

Becky expanded on the basic ideas. Here are the 5 ideas to lighten your load and live a better life:

1. Free your mind of worries
2. Live simply
3. Give More
4. Expect Less
5. And Enjoy This Life



November 10th Sermon "The 7 Words We No Longer Use"

Pastor Becky's last sermon as our Sr. Pastor was about the many, many God things that have taken place the last 14+ years at St. John's. Several individuals have requested a copy of the sermon. If you are interested in a copy, please be in touch with our Office Administrator Susan Kuder at stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this Life

PNEC Fall Meeting

The PNEC Fall meeting was held on November 2nd at St. John's UCC, Howertown. We spent the morning listening to Rev. Dr. Ted Bolsinger, a well know author who writes on church and society in transition. He was informative and we learned much.

During the business meeting the delegates elected the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates as the 4th Penn Northeast Conference Minister! Congratulations Bonnie and the PNEC!

Those representing St. John's UCC, Fullerton as delegates were Pastors Becky and Michelle, Colleen Kulhamer and Anne Welsh.

St. John's UCC, Fullerton Mission Statement

St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton provides a welcoming and safe place for all people to worship God, grow in faith and fellowship, and serve others and God by following the example of Jesus Christ. We believe all persons are created in God's image and are loved, valued, and blessed equally by God. This community of faith is an open and accepting congregation who seeks to welcome, without judgment, all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances.

Everyone is invited to fully share and participate in the life, ministry, and joys of our church family.

Consistory Happenings

Your Consistory has been busy! We have examined many profiles of Interim Pastors, which is the first step in a long process. On Monday, November 4th we interviewed a potential Interim Pastor.

At this time, we are looking forward to some wonderful worship services during the next few months! There will be some inspiring and meaningful worship services as St. John's continues to "Be the Church!"

Please join us as we worship and praise God for our many blessings! The Consistory will continue to provide updates on our search for an Interim Pastor.

Sincerely,
Sharon Czekner, Consistory President

Cheesecakes and Pies are Back Just in Time for the Holidays

Once again **Andie Dallago** is making her scrumptious homemade cheesecakes for sale on **Sunday, December 22**. At a cost of \$10.00 for an 8" cheesecake (they freeze well), you can select the following:

- ★ Peanut Butter Pie
- ★ Lemon Raspberry Cheesecake
- ★ Brownie Cheesecake



Look for a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or you can call Andie at 610-504-6598. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 8.**

Unexpected Blessing

One time, I went to visit a St. John's member who is in a dementia unit at a nursing home. I wasn't expecting much of a conversation. She wouldn't remember who I am, and she wouldn't remember that I had visited. But we had a very nice conversation about dogs. She's a dog lover, too. Before I left, we prayed together. Then, as I was getting up to leave, she put her hand on her heart, and she said, "I will hold you in here." What a God moment! I was really touched and every time I think of her saying, "I will hold you in here," I smile. You just never know when God is going to give you an unexpected blessing.

Pastor Dave Quinn, Visitation Pastor

Don't Be a Grinch !

If you missed our Holiday Craft Sales in November, you can still make your purchases in time for Christmas. The Crafters Group has a large assortment of Christmas decorations, ornaments, wall hangings, and stocking stuffers. And don't forget our selection of kitchen, household, and baby items along with our cookbooks, American Girl doll sweaters, and 12-bean soup mix, etc. Remember, our crafts are for sale all year long. **If you need a specific item, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572.**



Lady PEEPS Invites You!

Come and Share the Holiday Spirit with Us...

On **Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be meeting in Fox Hall for an evening of **"Enjoy This Life at Christmas."** The program will include a short video clip of the First Christmas, games, gifts, art, and refreshments. **Everyone is reminded to bring back her "Be the Church" banks.** Come join us and find the spirit of Christmas with these extraordinary St. John's ladies.



And after the Hectic Holidays, Treat Yourself to...



On **Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Lady PEEPS will welcome in the New Year with the theme **"Cleansing Health and Beauty Buffet."** Come to Fox Hall as we'll spend time learning healthy hints, sharing beauty secrets, and making some skin-softening scrubs. Join us for a special evening. Refreshments will be served.

A Word About Our Soup and Bake Sales...

Because of the busy-ness of the Christmas holidays and the uncertainty of the winter weather, soup and bake sales won't resume until the end of the winter months. Put these 2020 dates on your calendar and look for sign-up sheets nearer the time:

- ❖ Friday, March 20 – **Beef Vegetable Soup**
- ❖ Friday, April 24 – **Shoofly Pies, Funny Cakes & Sticky Buns**
- ❖ Friday, May 15 – **Turkey Pot Pie**

Remember, too, the Crafters have **12-Bean Soup Mix** available for sale all year long at **\$4.00**. See Carol Raszler to get your soup mix. Thank you to everyone who purchased Turkey Pot Pie at our soup sale on October 18 and a special thank you to all the soup makers. A total of 94 quarts were made.

NYE 2020 Sponsor a Teen!

If you are interested in financially supporting our youth group members ability to attend the National Youth Event, please speak with Pastor Michelle! Each teen is responsible for \$200 to attend. Youth group fundraising efforts and support from the PNEC YEA Fund will cover the rest of the expense.



Nut & Fruit Sale

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST
Deluxe Mixed Nuts	Pecans, cashews, pistachios, macadamias, almonds, hazelnuts, and Brazil nuts – no peanuts Roasted & gently salted; great source of vitamins & minerals	\$11.00/lb.
Fancy Pecan Halves	Contains more than 19 vitamins & minerals High in antioxidants; helps reduce risk of heart disease	\$11.00/lb.
Giant Whole Cashews	Roasted & gently salted Great source of iron; helps build healthy bones	\$11.00/lb.
Heart Healthy Nut Mix	Raw natural cashews and almonds, sweet dried cranberries, golden raisins, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds No sodium; no cholesterol	\$11.00/lb.
Mixed Chocolate Cranberries	Cranberries smothered in rich creamy milk, dark, and white chocolate; high in antioxidants	\$11.00/lb.
Tropical Blend	A tropical blend of macadamias, cashews, almonds, and cranberries. Loaded with sweet dried pineapple chunks.	\$11.00/lb.

Please see Carol Raszler before or after worship to make your purchases.

Checks are to be made payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

You'll need these items for Christmas baking or gifts for the holidays.

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

Do you have a spare turkey in your freezer?

During the 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 to the soup makers for their pot pie sale, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 to make arrangements.**



2019 Poinsettia Plant

Call the church office to order beautiful red poinsettias that are placed in the sanctuary. You can also use the order forms located in the parlor area.

Cost \$8.00 for each plant. Deadline to order is December 1st.



Here's A Way for You to "Be the Church"!

"Here I am Lord, send me." ~ Isaiah 6:8

Have you been thinking of becoming more involved at St. John's other than worship on a Sunday? Then becoming a member of the **Mission Committee** may be your answer. Through UCC National, we plan and organize St. John's giving to Our Church's Wider Mission and its four other special mission offerings. We work with various non-profit organizations like the Lehigh Conference of Churches, Valley Youth House, Jubilee Breakfast Ministry, Whitehall Food Pantry and others to support their ministries. Whenever a disaster occurs, we respond to those in need whether it be locally, nationally, or across the globe. **Please talk to Bob Dougherty or any member of the Mission Committee team.** We'd love to have you join us!

Attention All Altar Guild Members:

Worship and Music is holding an evening meeting to discuss rolling the Altar Guild directly into the Worship and Music Committee. The meeting is going to be on January 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Room 201. We are hoping to see as many of the Altar Guild members as possible to discuss and determine what changes will occur. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting and state your feelings on the possible changes to the committee. The Worship and Music Committee is looking to continue meeting in the evening to enable more members to attend.

Annual Reports Due

If you are a committee chairperson, task force leader, etc. you are asked to submit a yearly report updating our membership on what is happening in your committee. Please get your report to Susan Kuder, Office Administrator by January 19, 2020. You can also email your report to Susan at stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com



"Give-Back Nights"

- ★ Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no Give-Back Nights in November and December.
- ★ Join us on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Copperhead Grille located at 1731 Airport Rd. in Allentown.** From your dinner receipt, the restaurant will donate 15% of the proceeds back to St. John's. A flyer is required and can be found on the table in the lounge, bulletin, and in this newsletter.
- ★ Look for an upcoming Give-Back Night at **BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse** in February. Details will be in the next newsletter.

December 2019 & January 2020 Music Notes . . .

The theme for Advent is Christmas - Past, Present, and Future. The hymns we sing during this Advent season will reflect that theme.

One of the Advent hymns we will sing is *Watcher, Tell Us of the Night*. It was written by John Bowring, a brilliant man who had a special gift for languages. He is reputed to have learned a hundred different languages during his lifetime and translated poetry into English from a number of languages. He was appointed a number of jobs by the British government that required him to travel throughout Europe as well as to Syria and Siam – modern Thailand.

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night is a picture oracle in Isaiah 21:11-12. In this hymn, each verse is composed of two short speeches by a traveler. The watcher answers each of these short speeches with a short response. The traveler asks the watcher for “signs of promise” – and asks whether a beaming star promises joy and hope. The watcher assures the traveler that it does.

The traveler asks further about the star, and the watcher says that the star promises blessedness and light – peace and truth.

The traveler notes that the dawn is near, and the watcher acknowledges that doubt and terror lose their power when “darkness takes its flight”. “Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home. Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!”

We associate this hymn with Advent and Christmas when we are celebrating the coming of the Prince of Peace, the Son of God.

The fourth Sunday of Advent will be a carol sing at the 8:15 am service. We will learn about and sing familiar carols. The 10:45 am service will be the Kidz JAM Christmas pageant.

Christmas Eve will have different carol for the 6 pm and 9 pm services.

We welcome in Epiphany on January 5th of a new year, 2020, singing hymns related to the magi or kings.

The Baptism of Jesus will be celebrated on January 12th with hymns telling us that Christ is our Light.

We wait and prepare, we experience the divine birth, and we celebrate the presence of our Lord. May the music help you to prepare, experience, and celebrate.

Musically,
Gail



Christian Education & Youth

“The Real Story: A Christmas Comedy” December 22nd – 10:45AM

Join us as we enjoy our KidZ JAM & youth annual Christmas Pageant. Through laughter, music and more we will hear the story of the birth of Jesus anew! You won't want to miss it! Our Christian Early Learning Center may even make a guest appearance.

Vendor Fair and Craft Show

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Vendor Fair and Craft show! The Youth group really appreciates your support! Thank you to Kenda Catalini Chairperson!

Youth Group Wide Christmas Party! Monday, December 16th 6pm - 8pm

Mini, JR, and SR youth groups will enjoy a great Christmas Party together! Pizza will be provided, please RSVP to Pastor Michelle, Sjucyyouth@gmail.com or by signing up in the youth room by no later than December 9th!



All youth group members will do a “Secret Santa” exchange. Each member should bring a wrapped gift untagged no more than \$5 value for their own age group. Each youth group will exchange gifts with their own group in a fun way!



Got Prayer

Sunday, January 19th

During Faith Formation hour 9:30 - 10:30 am

Interactive prayer stations in Fox Hall. Join us for a morning of creative prayer and worship!

Christmas Gift Opening Prayer

Lord, as we open these wonderful gifts help us to remember the unconditional love you have for us. Help us to remember with each gift opened, no matter how perfect or not, the many blessings you give us each day. May our hearts be filled with your presence in this moment and always. Remembering the gift & in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

PNEC Annual Youth Retreat May 15th - 17th at Spruce Lake!

All teens 7th - 12th grade encouraged to attend!
\$50 deposit due ASAP (no later than January 10th)
Total cost for retreat is \$135
The youth ministry fundraising will cover
\$50 per person. After deposit, balance due
per person will be \$35

THIS IS A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE EVENT,
LIMITED TO 40 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE
GET IN YOUR REGISTRATIONS EARLY!

Registration forms available in the youth room (305)



NYE Registration deposit extended... Deposits due 11/30/19

The National Youth Event registration has been delayed, there is a new due date of 11/30 for the deposit. The Balance of \$100 will be due on 1/13/19 NO extensions.

The remainder of the \$525 registration/transportation fees will be covered by the Youth Ministry Fundraising account & YEA Fund Grants. Please make sure to have your deposits and forms in to Pastor Michelle by 11/30. Forms are available in the youth room (305)

This is a highlight for our teens and only comes every 4 years. This year the event will be held at Purdue University in Indiana for youth & Young adults ages 12-22 (must be in this age group on July 22, 2020)

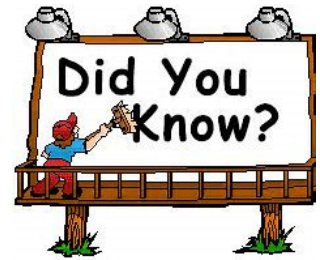
The cost for the registration is \$375 plus bus expenses (PNEC runs a bus with all PNEC youth and leaders -the cost is \$150 per person)

Checks payable St John's UCC, Fullerton please give directly to Pastor Michelle, mail to her attention, or leave in her mailbox. Write "NYE 2020" in memo area. DUE NOVEMBER 30th!

Don't Forget!

Healthcare Ministry

Measles Outbreaks and Cancer Screening



The CDC reports that from January 1 to October 3, 2019, 1,250 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 31 states. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992. More than 75% of the cases this year are linked to outbreaks in New York. Measles is found in many different countries outside of the United States and is spread by people visiting the country. 119 of the people who got measles this year were hospitalized, and 61 reported having complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis. There have also been cases of measles in the Lehigh Valley. Measles is more likely to spread and cause outbreaks in U.S. communities where groups of people are unvaccinated.

How do you get measles?

With direct contact, someone sneezing or coughing near you, it's greater than 80 percent. Indirect contact, say with an infected doorknob, has a lower chance. The airspace of an infected person is contagious within two hours after that person has left. If you get measles, stay home and avoid contact. After the rash appears, you are still contagious for 5 more days.

Best way to prevent measles?

Call a physician and get vaccinated. If not sure if vaccinated, there is a blood test to check. The vaccine is covered by most insurance. It is also available to people who are uninsured and people whose insurance plans don't cover it through the state health centers (the number is 1-877-PA-HEALT). MMR vaccine gives immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. It takes 7 to 14 days after vaccination to get full immunity.

Cancer screening tests aim to find cancer early, before it causes symptoms and when it may be easier to treat successfully. These are some of the safe and effective tests.

Low-dose helical computed tomography This test to screen for lung cancer has been shown to reduce lung cancer deaths among heavy smokers ages 55 to 74.

Mammography This method to screen for breast cancer has been shown to reduce deaths from the disease among women ages 40 to 74, especially those over age 50.

Pap test and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing These tests, which can be used both alone and in combination, can lead to both early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. They prevent the disease because they allow abnormal cells to be found and treated before they become cancer. Testing is generally recommended to begin at age 21 and to end at age 65 in women

Colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and stool tests (high-sensitivity fecal occult blood tests and stool DNA tests) Several screening tests have been shown to reduce the risk of dying from colorectal cancer. Colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy not only detect colorectal cancer early but also help prevent the disease in the first place. That's because these tests can find abnormal colon growths (polyps) that can be removed before they become cancer. Expert groups generally recommend that people who are at average risk for colorectal cancer have screening with one of these tests at ages 50 through 75.

Mission Moment!

Ornament and Mitten Tree Project

This year's Ornament and Mitten Tree Project, organized by the Mission Committee, offers hope and a bright Christmas to those in need. The trees are on display in the rear of the sanctuary.



We are giving you the opportunity to support any of the following:



Phoebe Ministries (senior citizens) – **Red Ornament**



Valley Youth House (homeless young people) – **Green Ornament**

You select a name and purchase a gift as follows:

Take the top red or green ornament for yourself. Fill out the information on the beige ornament and place it immediately in the gold box. The gifts need to be wrapped and the person's name must be securely attached to each package (optional to include your name). All gift cards need to be either put in a box or in a gift bag so they don't get lost.



We Need New Mittens, Gloves and Hats. A separate tree will be on display for you to bring in donations of new mittens, gloves or hats—for adults and children, men and women, girls and boys. Please do not wrap them but just hang them on the tree. With the cold winter weather approaching, many needy individuals are without these things to keep warm. All items will be distributed to the Whitehall-Coplay School District and the Sixth Street Shelter.

Deadline to Receive All Gifts is Sunday, December 8.

The Christmas Fund

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." ~ John 1:5



The Christmas Fund, is a special ministry of the Pension Boards of UCC National, which provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. It includes pension and health premium supplementation, emergency grants and assistance, and Christmas "thank-you" gift checks.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. **A special offering envelope and insert is included with this newsletter and will be received during worship on Sunday, December 15.**

Mission Moment - Continued

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of **December**, donations are needed for the following: **cereal, canned peas, canned corn, coffee, and hamburger helper**. For the month of **January**, donations are needed for the following: **hot chocolate, hot cereal, instant potatoes, and all kinds of pasta**. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items can always be made at any time throughout the year. **Thank you to everyone who donated cans of sweet potatoes for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

✠ **Neighbors in Need** – Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to NIN. A total of \$495.00 was received.**

✠ **Jubilee Breakfast Ministry** – The next two times to prepare a meal for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry are **Thursday, December 26 and January 30, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at Zion’s UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown**. This ministry is to provide breakfasts for the homeless, working poor, or anyone in need of food. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please **contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or email her at nancydough@msn.com**.

✠ **CROP Walk** – The CROP Walk was held on Sunday, October 13. **Members sponsoring our walkers donated \$1032.00 and 3 bags of canned goods**. A quarter of the total proceeds stay right here in the area shared between the Lehigh Conference of Churches’ Ecumenical Soup Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. **Thank you to all our 16 walkers: Bob & Sharon Czekner, Marion DeMilio, the Deutsch Family, Amy Feidler, Michelle Funk, Ruthann Hallman, the Neitz Family, Marina Newton, and Linda Smith.**

How did our St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	October	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,586.14	\$15,928.66
CROP Walk	\$1,032.00	\$ 1,032.00 Final
Neighbors in Need	\$ 345.00	\$ 495.00 Final
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 235.00	\$ 1,888.00

December 8:15AM and 10:45AM Services

December 1st Scripture: Hebrews 11 (selected verses) First Sunday of Advent

Hymns: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *O Loving Founder of the Stars *Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

8:15AM

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich Advent Candle lighters: Connie & John Viglione

Acolytes: Jared Holderman-Adams & Tyler McNicholas

10:45AM

STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts Advent Candle lighters: Ruthann & Gary Hallman

Acolytes: Carter Troxell & Kayleigh Fisher

Children's Message: Pastor Michelle

December 8th Scripture: Romans 15:4-7 Second Sunday of Advent

Hymns: *We Hail You God's Anointed *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates
*Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

8:15AM

Ushers: Judy Miranda, Angela Buskirk, Cole Buskirk Scripture Reader: LeDonne Wagstaff

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich Acolytes: Andrew Deutsch & Zoe Roth

10:45AM

Ushers: Staci Pagan, Jesus Pagan, Kaylee Pagan, Cathy Kuhns

Scripture Reader: Brenda Pascoe STARs Tech: Don Schneck

Acolytes: William Hoffman & Bailee Neitz Children's Message: Sharon Czekner

Advent Candle lighters: George, Jill, Maya & Lucas Williams

Consistory Baptism Participant: Sharon Czekner

December 15th Scripture: James 5:7-10 Revelation 1:4 Third Sunday of Advent

Hymns: *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old *like a child *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

8:15AM

Usher: Judy Miranda STARs Tech: Susan Rarich

Acolytes: Cole Buskirk & Alex Bryant

10:45AM

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer Acolytes: Christopher Leibensperger & Jillian Sommer

Children's Message: Andrea Leibensperger Advent Candle lighters: Sharon & Bob Czekner

December 22nd Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hymns: *O Come, All Ye Faithful *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

8:15AM

Ushers: Judy Miranda STARS Tech: Tom Moyer

Acolytes: Ethan Brobst & Steven Schlenker

10:45AM

Scripture Reader: Youth STARS Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts

Acolytes: Kyrah Gedroic & Conner Strauss Advent Candle lighters: Christian Ed. Teachers

December 24th Christmas Eve

Hymns: 6:00PM *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Away in a Manger *Silent Night! Holy Night!
*Joy to the World!

Hymns: 9:00PM *O Come, All Ye Faithful *What Child Is This *Silent Night! Holy Night
*Angels We Have Heard on High

December 29th (9:30AM) One Service First Sunday After Christmas

Scripture Reader: Brenda Pascoe STARS Tech: Don Schneck Acolyte: Zoey Gedroic

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

January 5th Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 Epiphany of The Lord

Hymns: *The First Noel *We three Kings of Orient Are *Go, Tell It on the Mountain

8:15AM

STARS Tech: Joe Trippett Acolyte: Cole Buskirk

10:45AM

STARS Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts Acolyte: Christopher Leibensperger

DINE *to* DONATE



1731 AIRPORT RD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18109
610.403.4600 COPPERHEADGRILLE.COM

Present this flyer when you dine in or take out &
15% of your food and beverage* purchase will be donated to

ST. JOHN'S UCC FULLERTON
TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020 from 5-9 PM

**Excludes discounted items.*

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FLYER AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY & CO-WORKERS
FLYERS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED AT COPPERHEAD GRILLE OR ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES

DINE *to* DONATE



1731 AIRPORT RD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18109
610.403.4600 COPPERHEADGRILLE.COM

Present this flyer when you dine in or take out &
15% of your food and beverage* purchase will be donated to

ST. JOHN'S UCC FULLERTON
TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020 from 5-9 PM

**Excludes discounted items.*

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FLYER AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY & CO-WORKERS
FLYERS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED AT COPPERHEAD GRILLE OR ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES

Staff

Assistant Pastor Michelle Funk, L.M.
stjohnsucc.youth@rcn.com

Rev. David Quinn,
Visitation Pastor
pedalinpastor@gmail.com

Mrs. Gail Hanzl
Director of Music
stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com

Mrs. Susan Kuder
Office Administrator
stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com

Mrs. Susan Weldner, Treasurer
sbweldner@gmail.com

Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Emilie Moyer,
Financial Secretaries
thomasmoyer@rcn.com

Mrs. Michelle Gutekunst
Coordinating Custodian &
EZ Worship Tech

Mr. Dan Riedy – Custodian

Mr. Robert Czekner – Custodian

St. John's Custodian's email:
custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com

Consistory

- Sharon Antrim
- Sharon Czekner, President
- Marion DeMilio
- Bob Dougherty
- Wendy Fox
- Ted Hess
- Colleen Kulhamer, Vice-President
- Eireann Hunsicker, Youth Deacon
- Noreen Miller
- Pete Mohr
- Paul Raszler
- Anne Welsh
- Dewey Yeatts

Committees & Chairpersons

- Altar Guild – Kim Hillegass & Nancy Dougherty
- Altar Flowers – Sally Gibson – 610-264-1210
- Bowling & Softball – Donald Schneck – 610-216-2707
- Christian Education – Karen Stoitsits
- Church Usage – Ted Hess
- Community Celebrates – Jinny Hess – 610-821-8856
- Crafters Group – Carol Raszler – 610-393-7572
- Evangelism – Kenda Catalini – 484-358-7453
- “Fun” Raising Committee – Tracey Glass (610-432-4997) & Cheryl Weaver
- Healthcare – Marion DeMilio – 610-797-9652
- Interior – Connie Viglione – 610-398-9663
- Mission – Robert Dougherty
- Personnel – Connie Viglione
- Prayer Chain – Mary Jane Ott – 610-434-9732
- Property – Charlie Apple – 610-928-7193
- STARS – Michelle Gutekunst
- Stewardship & Finance – Gary Madaus
- Visitation – Pat Thompson
- Women's Group – Colleen Kulhamer – 610-264-2499 clkulhamer@aol.com
- Worship & Music – Cheryl Weaver – 610-443-0161
- Youth Ministry – Kenda Catalini

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30AM – 4:00PM
610-264-8421

Worship Services
8:15AM and 10:45AM