



**SUE
WELDNER**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 17 • Issue 142 • July 2024

“Let’s Walk Together...”

“Welcome”

by Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman

***Let’s walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope and enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.***

You’re invited to come and know God’s grace.

All are welcome, the love of God to share

‘cause all of us are welcome here,

all are welcome in this place.

Over the last several months I’ve been thinking a great deal about the kind of “Welcome” we extend at St. John’s. This congregation prides itself on being known as a warm and inviting place. Most would agree. Some have found us to be a “safe place” to openly be who they are and find they are among caring people and friends. Others are still finding their way, wondering if the experience of “church” will ever be safe. Little by little these cautious seekers discover that what we say about God is actually practiced here. We’re not perfect. Yet our intention and our practice invite people into relationship, to a journey together.



In our recent All-PA UCC Conferences gathering, we noted that we represent a grand spectrum, a “big tent” of our many diversities, all of which make up our identity as the Body of Christ in this area. We are theologically and politically broad, conservative and progressive and somewhere in between. We are red, blue, purple and grey. We are married, single, divorced, widowed, with

children, no children, empty nesters and counting the days until we are or wishing to hear the pitter patter of the feet of kids again. The surprising thing to me – no matter where we are in our lives, we desire many of the same things. We want meaningful relationships. We have hopes and dreams and we want people in our lives with which to share them.

St. John's intentionally seeks to be a place where we can walk together. Not just in our walking challenges, but in our spiritual journey lived each day. Our hope is to create a place "where love can grow and hope can enter in." I pray that every time someone goes to our website, passes by on Grape Street, opens a newsletter, watches a worship service, enters our building or sees our lighted tower, they hear the Spirit of God whisper... "Welcome! You're invited here! All are welcome in this place!"

Join me this summer as we deepen our relationships with each other, as we reach out to our community children and youth, as we welcome people to relax and play and worship with us – join me with open arms in saying, "Let's walk together!" For I believe God is welcoming us as well, to take God's hand and walk together as...

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

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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On The Cover...



SUE WELDER

Hi, I'm Sue Weldner. I've been a part of St John's UCC Fullerton for almost 30 years now. Over the years, I've been a member of the Bell Choir (for about 15 years) and I taught the Confirmation Class for a little over 10 years. Currently, I serve as the church's Treasurer, making sure all our bills are paid, sharing the financial results each month, and preparing the annual budget.

Outside of church, I work as a Project Manager for IT software application implementation projects. Over the years, it's given me the opportunity to travel to many countries around the world as part of these implementations. Probably my "favorite job", is my most recent job - grandmother ("Gigi") to my 4 grandchildren. Jayce (8), Ella (5), Amara (5), and Gwen (2). Spending time with them brings me the greatest joy!

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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

Mary Jane Ott
Marilyn Piskula
Marietta Seyfried
Madeline Slivka
Bert Smith
Jolene Weaver
Nancy Weaver
Bonnie Weikel

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

Music at St. John's

Music is an alternate universe where people are often unrecognisable from who they are outside of it! The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the true person inside us!

Vaughan Fleischfresser

As preparations for a new season with the music ministry begin, an article I recently saw concerning choirs caught my eye. Taken from the Facebook page of Franklin County High School Choral Arts program in Kentucky, I made some revisions to reflect the ministry of St. John's and what our purpose is on a weekly basis for not only the congregation, but for ourselves.

By being involved with a music ministry, people discover:

- They have a voice that is valued and part of a much bigger whole.
- Praying through the art of music and dynamics.
- Confidence both musical and personal.
- The importance of discipline, focus, and selflessness.
- There are others just like them.
- They are good at something.
- Hard work pays off.
- How to interact and work with people of all ages.
- The sheer joy of making music with others.
- How to deal with making mistakes.
- How awesome making music with other people is.
- One's self.
- A source of comfort, a second family, and a sanctuary away from the world around them.

St. John's Music Ministry is a ministry open to anyone who enjoys fellowship and finding the beauty of prayer through song. Currently, our music ministry consists of 22 choir members and 6 handbell ringers. Can you imagine what it would be like to add 3, possibly 4, maybe even 5 additional choir members to our choir? How about 2 to 3 additional ringers in the bell choir?

This summer, I am presenting the challenge to you, the members of St. John's, that perhaps come this fall, it may be the time to consider becoming involved with our music ministry and help us continue to make a joyful noise to the Lord either through the choir or as a ringer for handbells! If weekly commitment is a struggle, perhaps consider seasonal help!

Please do not hesitate to contact me either through email at music@sjuccf.org or through phone (484) 241-0250 if you would like to know more information or have any questions!

Musically yours,
Patrick Sandt



PENTECOST SEASON SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NEW

First Sundays monthly only for summer

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Children's Faith Formation - Children in Worship, then

Blessed to Be a Blessing in Room 101 (other Sundays the children's table will be set up
in the Parlor for activity if desired, during worship with parent supervision.)

9:30am Worship each week with Sunday Social time following worship in Fox Hall



Allentown Out & Proud! - June 30, 4-7pm

The Penn Northeast Conference UCC and many others celebrate our Open & Affirming faith and all inclusive welcome at the Allentown Arts Park, 24-32 N 5th Street & Hamilton, June 30, 4-7pm. To volunteer to be part of the PNEC booth for an hour of the event, please use the link below.

[PNEC O&A Churches: Out & Proud Allentown Pride Event](#)

Summer Pentecost Season / July Worship

As June comes to a close and the summer season jumps into full swing, the Spirit of God continues to give life and hope in our worship every week! With our Faith and Core Values strongly in place, we look at the relationships we build together in faith.

God's Spirit is "Still Speaking" to, in and through the Church today, we embrace the relationships we share at St. John's, recognizing our diversity and celebrating the ways in which ALL means ALL in our welcome and ministry! Worship with us this summer! Celebrate with us as we give thanks to God for the many ways we are called to ministry together!

July 7 - Worship with Holy Communion Relationship Drama: A Love Like No Other

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 16-17

We often "ooooh and aaaah" over celebrity relationships. David's relationships were complicated. Relationships can be filled with drama and celebration. God invites us to a unique and lasting love like no other.

July 14 - Complicated Relationships: Promise Keeping

Mark 6: 14-29

We all make promises in our relationships. Sometimes, we create problems in keeping our word that is in conflict with our faith. In order to keep our promises, we don't want someone else to lose their heads! God welcomes us to relationships with integrity and grace.

July 21 - Vacation Bible School Sunday Celebration!

Hometown Nazareth comes to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!



Celebrate with the Children's Ministry at St. John's in our VBS presentation of kids, songs, themes, crafts and more! And of course, there will be food to follow our worship with our Sunday Social for kids, parents and families to celebrate our week together.

Calling All Green Thumb Plant Lovers!

Adopt-A-Flowerbed

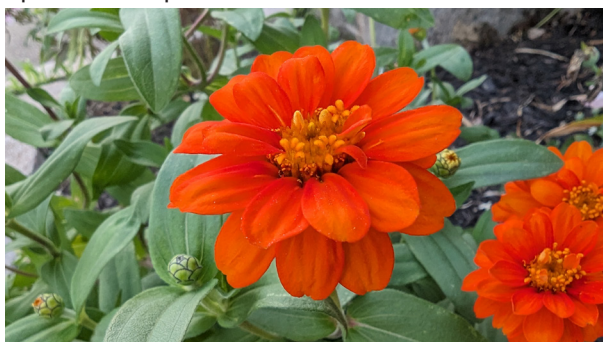
On Memorial Day Weekend, during our Sunday worship, while we were in worship inside the building, Melissa, Zach and Ryan Szoke were outside the building, watching/listening to the worship service on YouTube as they took time in SERVICE by weeding one of the Grape Street entry flowerbeds! WOW! THANK YOU!

A great "WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!" doesn't just happen without our support! Years ago, a few deeply committed people made sure the flowerbeds around the buildings were well maintained. They left us a great legacy and memory of beauty. However, in recent years, the beds have needed "some extra love" and a few "green thumbs!" The Property Committee is asking for your help.

Would you be willing help purchase some new bedding plants? Fill a potted vase? Weed a planter? Add mulch? Simply said, "Many hands make for light work." The flowerbeds on the St. John's campus could use your loving attention.

Help the Property Committee by volunteering to "Adopt-a-Flowerbed" for the year. We will give you suggestions for some consistency of look around the grounds. You "adopt" one of the planting areas we have identified and take it from there. Clean up the space, plant new flowering plants or small shrubs or ground cover, and check on it every couple of weeks. Help us keep St. John's a lovely place, inside and out!

Contact Wayne Lichtenwalner or the Church Office to select your gardening spot to "Adopt."



That They May All Be One!

We love to connect with new people at St. John's!

The United Church of Christ was formed together in 1957 with 5 denominations choosing to come together and be in relationship with each other in "united and uniting" ministry. "That they may all be one" was Jesus prayer for his disciples of every age and generation.

Whether you are new to our faith community, have been here for decades or your whole life, each Sunday Worship and Sunday Social offer new opportunities to engage with each other, connect and make lasting friendships. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to each other! "Hi there! I don't know your name. I'm _____ I'm so glad to know you!" See how easy that is?

If you're considering being part of the St. John's congregation and uniting with this faith community, please let Pastor Steve know, or contact the Church Office to learn more about our next class sessions to be held in August with new persons being received in Covenant on our Gathering Sunday, September 8!

We look forward to welcoming new people, friends who have been around a while, and others who found us online and want to more personally connect in relationship. God continues to add to this congregation with gifts of love through people who join us in following Jesus! We look forward to celebrating YOU!

Ice Cream Social At Pavilion

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 13, for St. John's Ice Cream Social and Bingo event!

Noon – 4pm with the delicious treats from the Drizzle Ice Cream truck! Plan now to join us and bring your neighbors. We will play 50/50 Cash \$\$\$ BINGO and stay cool with friends!

More information coming soon. Look for our Facebook event and worship bulletin announcements!

Picture Directory - Share Your Photos

We are grateful for the great efforts by Amy Feidler in making telephone calls to reach out and connect with our congregation! THANKS AMY! We also celebrate the generosity of a congregation member to fund the printing of our new color pictorial directory! THANK YOU! (You know who you are!)

We want the whole St. John's community to be included, so...

Our photographer, Bill Castello, will schedule separate appointment visits to photograph our homebound members to include them, or they may send in a photo to be used. Out of area members may send in a photograph as well. Please contact the Church Office for more information. If you are not able to come to St. John's and want to be in the new directory, please call the Church Office and we will find a time to come to your home for a quick photo or share how you can take a picture and send it to us. You'll be amazed at what "Photographer Bill" is able to do!



Unsung Heroes

St. John's has amazing people who Worship, Love and Serve! On occasion, there are some who stand out, having their gentle spirit and serving heart noticed by others. Recently, one of our members was recognized for her efforts as an "Unsung Hero" by the Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services. In their May 15 recognition ceremony, the contributions to the quality of life to others in our county, 19 older adults were awarded the title of "Unsung Heroes of the Lehigh Valley." Our own Carol O'Connell was honored for her efforts in the community.

Carol's daughter called to ask Pastor Steve for more information on some of the many ways in which Carol serves around St. John's UCC, as well as her many activities in our community area. Carol has long been involved in community activities and volunteerism. She loves connecting with people and helping them know they are loved and valued. Carol serves St. John's as a member of our Personnel Committee and the Visitation Committee, taking time each month to send card, make calls and personal one-on-one visits to our homebound family of faith. Carol actively volunteers with assisting in many other activities and events at St. John's as well.

We proudly join in recognizing and celebrating Carol O'Connell! Congratulations!

Association of Area Agencies on Aging former deputy director; and JR Reed, of the Office of Aging and Adult Services.

Whitehall resident Carole O'Connell celebrates with Armstrong, DiLoreto and Reed after receiving the title of Unsung Hero.

**PRESS PHOTOS BY
LOU WHEELAND**



Friendship Bible Class News

The Friendship Bible Class has scheduled its Annual Class Picnic for Saturday, August 17, beginning at 1:00pm at Bill Fink's campsite near Topton/Mertztown—rain or shine. Those who wish to camp outside are invited to stay from Friday to Sunday. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish. It would be helpful if you also brought lawn chairs. There's a pond stocked with fish, so be sure also bring your fishing poles. RSVP to Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or craszler@aol.com by Sunday, August 4, to confirm who's attending and what dish you will be bringing. Directions and a flyer will be emailed and/or hand-delivered to class members by mid-July.

Over the summer, everyone is cordially invited to join the class in Room 201 on the first Sunday in July and August at 8:30am. Come for a time of conversation and a cup of coffee before worship.

On Sunday, June 2, this Adult Faith Formation Class met at the Deitsch Eck in Lenhartsville for its Annual Luncheon. The Deitsch Eck is noted for its wonderful Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. It was a time for food, fellowship and appreciation to those who taught the class over the course of this past church school year—Tom Moyer (class leader), Nancy Bowman, Kay Chryst, Tom Chryst, Bill Fink, Kirby Hower, Paul Raszler, and Tyler Shankweiler. A great meal was had by all thanks to chef Steve Seltzer, pictured here with Paul, who has been the restaurant's owner for 31 years. Steve was gracious enough to give Tom a gift certificate to the restaurant to be used at an upcoming fundraising event.





POWER Interfaith Celebrates House Passage of House Bill 2370

A Long-Term Promise to Pennsylvania's Children

POWER Interfaith, a key leading group in the fight for education equity in Pennsylvania for over 10 years, applauds the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for passing House Bill 2370. This critical legislation represents a long-term solution and a promise to our children: the Commonwealth is finally invested in their public education.

"The passage of House Bill 2370 is a victory for all Pennsylvanians, but most importantly, for our children," states Marlene Armato, community advocate and board member of POWER Interfaith. "This bill delivers on the Commonwealth's responsibility to provide quality public education, ensuring a brighter future for millions of students and their families."



The Time for Action is Now: Urging the Senate to Pass HB2370 and Invest in Public Education

While the House's passage of House Bill 2370 is a significant step forward, the fight for quality public education funding isn't over. We urge lawmakers in the Senate to finish the job and make investing in public education a top priority this legislative session.

Solutions are within reach! We call on the Senate to take the following actions:

- Pass House Bill 2370: This critical legislation addresses the unconstitutional underfunding of public schools, ensuring equitable resources for all students.
- Pass the proposed \$1.1 billion budget for public education: This budget invests in our children's education, providing them with the tools they need to succeed.
- Reject vouchers and other schemes: These initiatives drain resources from public schools, further widening the gap between wealthy and underfunded districts.

The passing of this bill is a huge step forward in promoting understanding and collaboration between different faiths in our community. It wouldn't have been possible without all of your support – your emails, calls, and shares made a real difference.

But here's the thing: we're not done yet! The bill still needs to pass the Senate. Let's keep the momentum going by contacting our legislators and urging them to vote in favor of this important initiative.

Together, we can show the power of interfaith cooperation.

Here's how you can help:

1. Find your legislator's contact information:
2. Write a quick email or call them: Thank them for their service and urge them to support HB 2370.
3. Share this email with your friends and family!

Together, let's make this a reality!

Warmly,
Sara Melton
Managing Director of Organizing
POWER Interfaith

BECAUSE OF YOU... in 2024! Still Striving to get to 75!

Summer is here, yet people willing to try our automatic online giving has not increased. Will you help?

"God loves a cheerful giver!" That's the promise we have from the scriptures and St. John's makes it easy for you to share your generosity. Over the last two years, our Stewardship & Finance Committee has been urging our contributors, month after month, to adopt a consistent "Automatic Contribution" to support the ministry of St. John's. Over the two years, we've increased by 5, a good start, but not enough to keep our traditional "summer slump" from taking place as people travel.



Scan, Support & Sustain
BECOME AN AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR!

We ask for your help. St. John's needs to know we can count on your regular financial participation whether you are in worship or traveling on vacation. We want to GROW our AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR base from 56 current automatic contributing giving

units to 75. Will you help the church be more effective? BECAUSE OF YOU... we hope to secure a more consistent financial base to support and grow our ministry.

Some of you have chosen to make a contribution online through our secure website portal. Thank you for trying it out! We hope more will MAKE THE SWITCH by setting up recurring automatic contributions for your regular support of our ministry at St. John's UCC, Fullerton. We've made it easy for you to share your gifts for ministry and using the QR Code above with your smart phone is a safe and secure means of supporting and sustaining the ministry to which God calls us.

[A new authorization form](#) is available on our red information table and our website for you to download, print, fill out and return to the church office to begin your recurring contributions from a bank account or credit card. Because of YOU, our regular participants and friends, our ability to meet the needs of our church and community changes lives.

Sacred Water Gathering

Many of you have already started water gathering while on vacations so far. Thank you! We still have many bottles available for you to participate this summer in your travels. Please be sure to pick up water bottles from the basket at the welcome table as you enter the sanctuary. Then bring back your small bottles of water from various places, near and far along with the location and your name with the returned bottles.

We began handing out small bottles on Easter Sunday for collecting through August. A basket of small bottles to collect water from various places is available at the center aisle. Return bottles to Pastor Steve or bring them to the church office for safe keeping. The water will be received, purified. Then next Fall on our "Gathering Sunday," we will begin using this water for our celebrations of baptism and other sacred moments in worship. Thank you in advance for helping create a new ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world.

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 **July 6 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

Save The Dates!

Ice Cream Social & Bingo –Saturday, 7/13

Community Yard Sale –Saturday, 8/10

Annual Road Rally –Sunday, 10/20

Turkey Tango Gift Card Bingo –Friday, 11/8

See additional details and events [on page 29](#)

Attention: Basket Social Winners

For anyone who won a basket at the Basket Social back in May, if you don't need that empty basket or container, we could use them at the church for our next event. Please bring them to the office or to worship and give them to Carol Raszler. Thank you.

New Ways To Make Giving Easy!

We will soon have the ability to receive debit/credit card payments for all our many activities and opportunities at St. John's! You've asked us to make giving even easier. Now we have the ability to receive payment using your debit or credit cards through a secure, encrypted transaction system, onsite at St. John's or by using our website.

Want to buy some Giant or Weis Gift Cards for your groceries? Want to purchase your IronPigs game tickets? Want to go on one of our bus trips? Ready to purchase candies? pasties? nuts? or flowers? You're in luck! It's easy! Be sure to visit with Alison, Michelle, Tom, Carol or Pastor Steve and we will help you get started. All we need is you and your card!

A New Twist for Grocery Shopping

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

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

For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back from its Save-A-Tape Program. The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. Thank you to Karen Stoisits who compiled the register tapes in recent weeks amounting to a total of \$5717.02 in sales in which St. John's will receive a check for \$57.17.

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

Sunday Social Following Worship Connecting With God And Others

The Sunday Social events following worship continues to add to our whole experience of building community and connections week after week at St. John's! Thank you to all who have hosted, individuals, families and groups. We all enjoy your efforts to increase our hospitality and welcome to all following worship.

The list with dates open to host the Sunday Social events is posted on the red display board in the sanctuary. Please take a look for available Sundays over the summer months and sign up to help. Invite someone to partner with you. If you have enjoyed the love and efforts of others to share food and fellowship through the Sunday Social time, please consider signing up with a friend to help share this experience with others, or call the church office and let Alison know what Sunday you want to provide refreshments. Colleen Kulhammer is always happy to help orient you in the church kitchen.

Join us after worship in Fox Hall for our Sunday Social!

Nut & Fruit Sale Coming Soon

Great news! Many of you have been eagerly awaiting the return of our annual Fruit and Nut Sale, and we are excited to announce that it will indeed be happening this year.

Starting soon, you will be able to purchase a variety of delicious items. Our selection will include mixed nuts, cashews, pecans, assorted mixes of fruits and nuts, bridge mix, and chocolate-covered raisins. We're also bringing back our popular dark chocolate cranberries, which have been a crowd favorite!

Order forms will be made available both in the church lobby and online, making it easy for you to place your orders. This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on tasty snacks while supporting our community initiatives.

Be sure to look for more detailed information and the order forms in the August Newsletter. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful sale!

Community Yard Sale at the Pavilion

Have too much stuff??? End the summer by cleaning out your closet, garage, shed, or storage unit, and join the neighborhood for this year's St John's community yard sale! It is Saturday, August 10 from 8am until 2pm. You can either set up a space with your own table for \$10 each or you can use one of our church's tables for \$15 each. Contact Brian Strauss strauss1975@aol.com or (610) 248-9119 to reserve a spot!

Vacation Bible School is Coming up!

Vacation Bible school will take place on Monday, July 15th through Friday, July 19th from 6-8pm. We are in need of some items to help us decorate for the program. If you have any of the following items that we may borrow, please pin your name to the item(s) and drop them off in the box underneath the easel in the church parlor. You will receive your items back the Sunday after VBS ends.

1. Solid colored sheets (fitted or flat) in beige, tan, gray, taupe, or light green. They will be used as back drops or to cover furniture only.
2. Used/old bed pillows or bean bag chairs to be used to sit on.
3. Solid colored or brightly colored throws or throw rugs. These items will be used for the children to sit on only.
4. Any type of mid to large baskets to be used as decorations.

[To register a child for VBS, be sure to visit our website](#) at St. John's UCC, Fullerton before July 14, 2024. All of our faith formation children are invited to attend regardless of age. For more information, please see co-chairs Wendy Fox and DonnaLee Yeatts.

Let's Get Ready To Party At The Pavilion!

Let's Plan for a Great Community Days Event!

The "Fun-Raising" team had great hopes to have a neighborhood block party this July. We still have high hopes, so we've moved the date and would like your help. Everyone loves a good party, especially with friends and neighbors, some fun and games, good music, and of course food! Now what we need are some planning people with connections! Can you help us by being part of the planning group? Our new date is **September 6, 2025! YES... 2025!**

We want to take the time to do something BIG and EXCITING in preparation for next year's Gathering Sunday! Let's plan a great Community Days event!

Help us look for...

- Dunk Tank with Pastor Steve and others taking the seat of honor
- Gem Fishing
- BINGO for cash
- Music Entertainment
- Food Trucks
- Grill Masters
- Ice-Cream Fun!
- and more!

Get in on the planning fun and be part of our team! Visit with Mike Borgman or call the church office to connect!

Call for August Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to contribute pictures or an article for the June newsletter, please email your submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format (no tables) to newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, July 14.

Any photos or graphics for your article should be sent as attachments to your emailed submission. Please do not embed them into a document, as this usually reduces image quality.

Authors, some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

Pastor Becky in the News

On May 23 at the Annual Meeting of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, was honored for her serving two terms on LCC's Board of Directors. She said, "The Lehigh Conference of Churches continues to do such awesome ministry. It has been an honor to serve on the board for the last six years and most recently as Vice President. We will continue to cheer on this ministry." Pictured here with Pastor Becky is Charlene Smalls who also served on the board. During this event, Executive Director Abby Goldfarb spoke on the community challenges that LCC witnessed in the past year and highlighted how the Conference rose to meet them. The theme of the meeting was "Meeting the Challenge." The LCC is located at the former Dubbs UCC building at 5th & Allen Streets in Allentown and has been serving the needs of the community for the past 70 years.



The Crafters Need Your Help

Here's a challenge for you all! We'd like to give ourselves another name other than just Crafters or Crafters Group. Be creative and propose a new name for us. Suggestions can be submitted to Carol Raszler craszler@aol.com or give her a call (610) 393-7572 or see her before or after worship.

We're looking for more people who can crochet. All we need is your time and talent to crochet the tops on our T-towels. Supplies will be provided.

Our next sale will be on Saturday, August 10, from 8am to 2pm at the Community Yard Sale at the Pavilion.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

As this newsletter goes to press, we have sold out with 83 people from St. John's going to the IronPigs baseball game on Tuesday, August 6, at 7:05pm. The IronPigs will be playing against the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders at Coco-Cola Park. Park information, game tickets, and vouchers for food will be distributed to everyone by mid-July. Hotdogs will only be \$1.00. There is a cap give-away, while the supply lasts, for those 17 years old and younger. The Phillie Phanatic is scheduled to make an appearance. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or email her craszler@aol.com



Upcoming Dine & Donate Events

Everyone is invited to the following Dine & Donate events. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbors. For these events, St. John's receives a percentage back in sales. Flyers may be required, and they can be found online or on the table in the lounge area by the sanctuary.

Drizzle's Ice Cream – 5040 Rt. 873 Schnecksville

Thursday June 27 Noon to 9pm

No flyer is required, contact Mike Borgman (610) 762-8959

Copperhead Grille – 1731 Airport Road Allentown

Thursday August 15 5pm to 9pm

Flyer is needed or use App, contact Mike Borgman (610) 762-8959

If you have a suggestion about scheduling a future Dine & Donate event, please contact Mike Borgman or anyone on the "Fun-Raising" Committee. Thanks, Mike for being our new chairperson, woohoo!

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel





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

Thursday, June 27 – Dine & Donate at Drizzle’s Ice Cream, 5040 Rt. 873, Schnecksville – Noon to 9pm. Percentage of sales come back to church. No flyer needed. See Mike.

Saturday, July 13 – Ice Cream Social and Bingo at Pavilion – Noon to 4pm. 50/50 cash Bingo and more. See Mike, Brian F. & Pastor Steve.

Tuesday, Aug. 6 – IronPigs Grandstand – 7:05pm. Cost \$13. Cap giveaway for those 17 years old & younger. Appearance by Phillie Phanatic. See Carol.

Saturday, Aug. 10 – Community Yard Sale at Pavilion – 8am to 2pm. \$10 for your own table; \$15 to use St. John’s table. Reserve your space. See Brian S.

Thursday, Aug. 15 – Dine & Donate at Copperhead Grill, Airport Rd., Allentown – 5pm to 9pm Church gets 20% of the proceeds. Flyer needed. See Mike.

Sunday, Oct. 20 – Annual Road Rally – Meet at 1:30pm at church. Sign up starting in September. See Tom.

Tuesday, Oct. 22 – Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” – Shop for sales from 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5.00 pass and church keeps the funds. See Ginny.

Saturday, Nov. 2 – Craft & Vendor Fair – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. To reserve your space, contact Kenda Catalini (484) 358-7453.

Friday, Nov. 8 – Turkey Tango Gift Card Bingo – Reserve the date. Details in future newsletters. See Tom.

Nut & Fruit Sale – Details coming in August Newsletter. See Carol.

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

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

Committee Contacts:

Mike Borgman	(610) 762-8959	Kathy Haggerty	(484) 358-7453
Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Amy Feidler	(610) 657- 0654	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119



God Is Still Speaking...

with Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:00am

If you're looking for a way to deepen your faith, we have just the group for you!

Exploring the Bible always opens us to discover new things. Our "still speaking" God continues to open our lives and understanding as we share with each other every Wednesday at St. John's! We welcome you to take part in this weekly time of faith formation this summer. Maybe you're not a "Sunday School" person or don't feel like you know much about the Bible. Questions are welcomed in our study time! We laugh! We learn! We grow in our faith together! We welcome you to this time of sharing with us.

We explore the lectionary readings for upcoming Sundays as our foundation readings for worship. Sometimes, Pastor Steve selects other scriptures to supplement the lectionary for a special worship series. Either way, you will have fun growing in questions and sharing our faith and teaching together.

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

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

Meet Muggles



Muggles was officially installed at Heidelberg Union Church on June 2 as its Certified Church Therapy Dog. Muggles belongs to the church's pastor, Rev. Michelle Funk, and after months of training and testing, has been certified with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. As you all know, Michelle served previously as St. John's Assistant Pastor. Muggles visits the church's homebound, visits assisted living facilities,

attends the worship services, goes to community events, and has been a comfort for those who are grieving. Four adorable paws are sharing God's unconditional love.



Top 7 last names that could have been in the Old Testament:

- 7) Able Bodied
- 6) Adam Zapple
- 5) Esau You
- 4) Noah Fence
- 3) Jethrow Theball
- 2) Achan Back
- 1) Jezebel Ringer

July Birthdays

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

7/1	Madison Musselman	7/17	Margaret Reck
7/2	Susan Kaider	7/18	Lucas Weidner
	Charlotte Kerrigan	7/21	Matthew Loch
7/3	Ryan Brobst	7/22	Owen Dovico
	Dominic DeMilio		Jean McGonigle
7/6	Dale Brinker	7/23	Kenda Catalini
7/7	Wendy Fox		Stephanie Deutsch
7/9	Bobbi Pope		Susan Gibson
7/10	Jennifer Moser		Robert Mill
	Corrina Schneck	7/24	Robert Barrall
7/11	Michael Gutekunst		Dorothy Kehnel
	Sarah Schaffer		Grace Mohr
7/12	Madison Berg		Mary Lou Tretter
	Glenn Buskirk		Diane Walter
	Jennifer Kuhns	7/26	Bert Smith
7/13	Kathy Haggerty	7/27	Michael Geissinger
7/14	Diana Beck		Elwood Thompson
	Dennis Warmkessel	7/29	Barrie Carr
7/15	Kathleen Bright		Mark Snyder
	Judith Doyle	7/30	Nancy Wagner
	Carol Wuchter	7/31	Sharon Borgman



July Wedding Anniversaries

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

7/6/1974

Robert & Sharon Czekner

7/11/1959

Ronald & Joan Stocker

7/13/2014

Michael & Michelle Gutekunst

7/13/1985

Colleen & Michael Kulhamer

7/16/1977

Charles & Teresa Schwenk

7/20/1985

Keith & Donna Held

7/22/1961

James & Mary Lou Tretter Sr

7/29/1989

Anthony & Roxanne DeMilio



Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Drive

Over half of the students in the Whitehall-Coplay School District rely on full or partial subsidies for lunches. Equipping a child with the needed school supplies can be an extra burden that many parents are not able to afford. What happens then is that the teachers, out of their own pockets, provide the needed school supplies for these children. We have a wonderful opportunity to help.

Listed below are items that are needed:

New/gently used backpacks, Refillable water bottles, Student scissors, Spiral-bound notebooks, Pencils, Lunch boxes, Dry-erase markers, Pencil boxes/pouches, Glue sticks, Box of crayons, Colored pencils, Colored pocket folders, Erasers, Book sox (fabric book covers), Tissues, Pens (blue or black), Folders Paper agenda planners, Calculator – Texas Instruments – TI-30XS Multiview (only this calculator is acceptable), Earbuds/Headphones (must be compatible with Chromebooks)

Look for the collection bin in the coatroom area by the sanctuary along with a complete shopping list of school supplies. In addition, there will be a drive-by collection on Saturday, July 20, from 10am to Noon at the Pavilion. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com. Deadline to receive items is Sunday, July 28.



Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of July, we are collecting macaroni & cheese, canned corn, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, and pancake syrup. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by on-line or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry on the 4th Monday of any month, please contact Gary Black by email gary.t.black@outlook.com or (484) 274-2405.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Additional late contributions were received for One Great Hour of Sharing bringing the total giving to \$435.00. This special mission offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special 5-for-5 offering of United Church of Christ. A total of \$125.00 was received. Your generosity will plant seeds for new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Half of your giving will stay with our locale Penn Northeast Conference.

CROP Hunger Walk – We Need a Team of Walkers

The CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, starting at 1:30pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott Street, Allentown. To join the St. John's Team as a walker or to sponsor a walker, please contact Cindy Reck (610) 776-4154 or email at cmreck57@gmail.com. This event will also be coordinated with the Health Committee's Fall Walking Challenge.

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the first Sunday and third Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6:30pm – Dine-in Only. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, July 7	Muslim Assoc. of Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, July 16	Whitehall Active Comm. Center	2301 Pine St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday, August 4	Muslim Assoc. of Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, August 20	OPEN – TBD		

How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	May 2024	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,030.00	\$5,633.00	\$ 5,494.00	\$ 7,160.10
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 375.00	\$1,600.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 640.00
Strengthen the Church	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 60.00	-
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 10.00	\$ 435.00	\$ 565.00	\$ 999.80
Middle East Support	\$ 25.00	\$ 95.00	N/A	N/A
General Disaster Relief Fund	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 180.00	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for May 2024 totaled \$1,595.00; YTD totaled \$8,338.33.

GIFT CARD

BINGO

Tickets sold: 147

Presale - 118 At the door - 29

Received: \$7,544.35

Cost of Gift Cards: \$1,029.80

Profit: \$6,414.55

10 percent to Missions: \$641

Net Profit:

\$5,773.55

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
May 2024

Income	Electronic	5/5/2024	5/12/2024	5/19/2024	5/26/2024	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,284.20	\$3,386.00	\$2,267.00	\$3,688.00	\$2,861.00	\$18,486.20
Rental Income--Gross		\$1,225.50		\$42.50	\$1,225.50	\$2,493.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$10.00	\$39.25	\$1,623.40	\$602.50	\$111.76	\$2,386.91
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers		\$72.00	\$38.00			\$110.00
Christian Education	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$65.00	\$10.00		\$100.00
Special Gifts					\$350.00	\$350.00
Total	\$6,314.20	\$4,727.75	\$3,993.40	\$4,343.00	\$4,548.26	\$- \$23,926.61

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,219.91	\$10,793.00	\$(573.09)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,387.24	\$8,877.00	\$510.24
Property	\$2,318.43	\$3,161.00	\$(842.57)
Parish Programs	\$1,797.44	\$2,279.50	\$(482.06)
Total	\$23,723.02	\$25,110.50	\$(1,387.48)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$23,926.61	\$120,869.13
Total Expenses	\$23,723.02	\$124,202.24
Net	\$203.59	\$(3,333.11)

Mission Giving, May 2024

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,030.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$10.00
Strengthen the Church	\$125.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$375.00
Middle East	\$25.00
General Disaster	\$30.00
Total	\$1,595.00

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

Account	Apr-24	May-24	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$39,004.14	\$39,639.22	\$635.08
Giant Card Funds	\$1,757.01	\$1,387.50	\$(369.51)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,640.25	\$1,740.00	\$99.75
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$42,401.40	\$42,766.72	\$365.32
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$49,214.36	\$49,797.88	\$583.52
Restricted/Property Investments	\$76,938.00	\$77,264.00	\$326.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$126,152.36	\$127,061.88	\$909.52
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$477,359.00	\$495,065.00	\$17,706.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$645,912.76	\$664,893.60	\$18,980.84
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(83,389.74)	\$(83,265.87)	\$123.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(83,389.74)	\$(83,265.87)	\$123.87



Staff Contacts

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

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 8:30 Fellowship Class 9-30am Children's Faith Formation 9-30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	8 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee Room 201- also on Zoom	9 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	10 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	11 7:00pm Mission Committee	12	13 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall 12:00pm Pavilion - Ice Cream Social
14 Newsletter Articles Due 9-30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	15 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	16 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	17 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 5:30pm Vacation Bible School 6:00pm Painting Group 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	18 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	19 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	20 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall 10:00am Pavilion-backpack drive-by
21 9-30am Sunday Worship/MS Sunday 10:30am Social Hour	22 9:00am Preschool Camp	23 9:00am Preschool Camp 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	24 9:00am Preschool Camp 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:0pm Painting Group 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	25 9:00am Preschool Camp 6:30pm Property Committee	26 9:00am Preschool Camp 6:30pm Phillis Game	27 10:00am Consistory Retreat
28 9-30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Photos Fox Hall	29	30 9:30am Staff Meeting	31 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support			