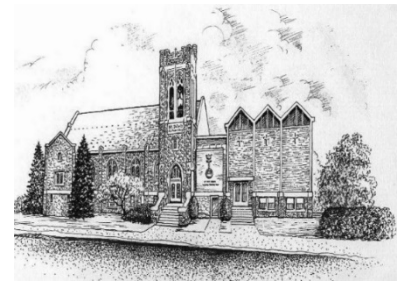


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org T: 610-264-8421



Well, it finally seems like we are settling into our “new normal” for the time being. The shelter in place order will not be lifted until at very minimum May 25th and we will continue to worship over zoom the rest of this month. Thank you to each one of the elders, consistory, and staff for your leadership during this time of transition. It has been wonderful to be able to do ministry with all of you! In the time I have been acting as your lead pastor we certainly have had our share of both joys and challenges! You have been an amazing group to walk through the last 6 months with!

I am so thankful for a congregation that is willing to experiment and try new things every week during worship. We have come a long way with our virtual worship services. We are continuing to connect via Devotions, music, conversations, meetings over zoom and more. The congregation is responding and continuing to contribute and our attendance at our worship services continues to be steady. It gives me so much hope to know that St J's has not skipped a beat during this time. We have continued to “Be the Church” even though we have been scattered. It will be a great day when the congregation is finally able to be together for physical worship! It will be an even bigger family reunion than our normal Sunday's have always been!

Here we are... It seemed so far away, yet it has crept up and the time seems to have flown by! It is just about time for your new Sr Interim Pastor to begin and for me to say “see ya later” to the congregation. It has been such a bittersweet time for me lately both personally and professionally. So many people to thank, so much to thank God for. How do you say thank you and goodbye to the people that helped to shape your call as a pastor? There just aren't any words that can encompass how I feel about every single member, visitor and friend of St J's. It is hard to believe that 7 years ago I began this journey with you as your part time DCE & youth and I leave you this month as a “Rev” ready to receive my next call from God, wherever and whenever that may be.

Sunday, May 24th will be my last day as your acting lead pastor. During the 2:00 pm service we will participate in a Liturgy of Farewell, led by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates PNEC Conference Minister. We will be charged to separate in a clear way, both so you will be able to build a solid, trusting, and supportive relationship with your new pastor and so that I am freed to focus fully on the new ministry God is calling me to.

Pastoral transitions are hard both for the congregation and the pastor in transition. In order to maintain good boundaries, so that your relationship with Pastor Bonnie can begin in a healthy and positive direction, after May 24th I will no longer be available for St. John's member weddings, baptisms, funerals, pastoral care, church activities, discussions of church business/decision, etc. by phone, email, social media, or in person.

I am grateful that our faith makes it possible to accept these boundaries with positive feelings, recognizing them as what they are intended to be – signs of our love and respect for each other and our future ministries in the name of Christ.

I don't know what the future holds for St J's, each one of you individually, or for myself, yet I know it will be good! Because it will be of God! My prayers will be with all of you and I wish for you many, many blessings as we all continue to follow the paths that God is laying out for us... “see you later!”

Love and Light, Michelle

“All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’” - Acts 2:12

Have you ever noticed how in the Bible it is often out of chaotic and confusing circumstances that the most amazing things emerge?

Consider the creation story: *“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep...”* (Genesis 1:1) or Abraham and Sarah’s grief at being unable to bear children: *“Why did Sarah laugh...?”* (Genesis 18:13). Or the Israelite’s wilderness sojourn: *“The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”* (Numbers 21:5), Saul’s transformation: *“Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing.”* (Acts 9:8), or the recently celebrated resurrection of Jesus: *“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them...”* (Mark 16:8)

If you can take time, these are all great biblical accounts that are worth re-reading in their entirety, especially since my first Sunday with you will be Pentecost Sunday, when even as we celebrate the “birth of the church” we will be reminded of the chaos and confusion that preceded that momentous occasion! The sound of a rush of violent wind in the house where they were sitting? Tongues of fire resting on their heads? A cacophony of languages proclaiming God’s mighty power? Accusations of drunkenness? (Acts 2:1-12) How much more disorienting could that day have been?

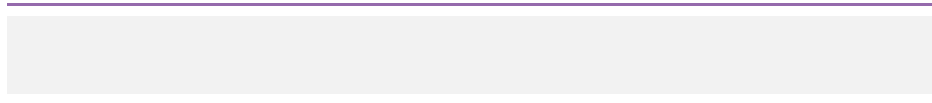
What’s more, this year as we enter the season after Pentecost, also known in the liturgical calendar as “Ordinary Time,” the weeks and months before us will be anything but ordinary! Not only will we be coping with the Covid-19 pandemic, St. John’s will be regrouping after the retirement of a beloved Senior Pastor and a farewell to an equally beloved Assistant/Associate/Acting Lead Pastor!

It seems to me that we may approach this upcoming extraordinary time with a variety of feelings – grief, cynicism, anger, frustration, uncertainty, doubt, confusion, or even despair. However, we can also take courage, strength and hope from the biblical stories that promise us that God will continue to be with us. God’s Spirit will continue to surround, inspire and challenge us, no matter what we are experiencing or feeling, as we enter this season of possibility and new growth (did you realize that’s what the green paraments symbolize?), just as it did Jesus’ first disciples following that first Pentecost.

I wonder... what new thing might God have in mind for St. John’s in this 2020 extraordinary Ordinary Time? I’m looking forward to finding out with you!

Be God’s,
Pastor Bonnie

Pastor Bonnie Moore's email address: sjfpastor@gmail.com



Whitehall Food Bank Donation Drive-By

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: St. John's Grape St. Parking Lot



Items Needed:

- White or Brown Rice
- Instant Potatoes
- Canned Peas
- Canned Corn
- Spaghetti
- Any kind of Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Cereal
- Canned Peaches
- Canned Pears
- Apple Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Cake Mix

All groceries must be unopened and not past expiration date.

Any other non-perishable items as well as monetary donations are always accepted.

Enter on Grape Street and leave by rear alley. Please adhere to all Covid-19 Guidelines: mask, gloves, 6 ft. distancing. If you have any questions, please contact Mission Committee members Bill Meckes at 610-769-5194 or Bob Dougherty at 610-760-8361.

Mask Ministry

The Mission Committee is offering to our St. John's family the opportunity to receive a face mask during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please contact Marion DeMilio to place your order at 610-797-9652 or momoyer@ptd.net. There are limitations as to the number you can order. There is no charge for the masks.

Confirmation Worship Service of Recognition

Sunday, May 24th ~ 9:30 am Zoom Worship

Join us as we affirm our confirmands and celebrate their journey through the past 2 years! We will schedule the Rite of Confirmation when we are able to be together for physical worship.

Please join us as we bless & lift up our confirmands!

Join Zoom Worship <https://zoom.us/j/573316307?pwd=Z0YzNjZOUUFLd2tmNWdZWxhOGFwQT09>
Meeting ID: 573 316 307 Password 1902

Farewell Zoom Worship & Open House for Pastor Michelle

Pastor Michelle's Zoom Farewell Service and Drive-by Goodbye will begin Sunday, [May 24th](#) at 2pm. PNEC Conference Minister, Rev. Bonnie Bates will be joining us for a short ceremonial service and gifts will be presented to Pastor Michelle. The congregation can then say some goodbyes and thank you to Pastor Michelle on zoom until 3:30pm. At 4:30pm there will be a drive-by goodbye parade in the parking lot of St. John's to wave goodbye to Pastor Michelle as she journeys to her new home in North Carolina. Come join us as we thank her for a job well done!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94453147854> Meeting ID: 944 5314 7854

One tap mobile +13017158592,,94453147854# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 944 5314 7854

Summer "Zoom" Worship Services

Starting May 31st and continuing every Sunday until??, use the below link to join the worship services.

Time: May 31, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81685098134?pwd=bmFSL2xFeGU2SEhpU050akNXcHZFQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 8509 8134 Password: 1902

One tap mobile +16468769923,,81685098134#,,1#,1902# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) Meeting ID: 816 8509 8134 Password: 1902

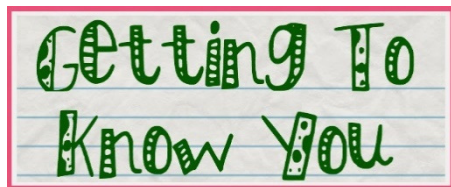
"Caught In the Act"... "Be the Church" in pictures

Send us a picture of how YOU and/or your family continues to "Be the Church" while we are scattered. Pictures will be featured on Facebook and Instagram. We know you are out there doing good in our world... Share it with the rest of us so it may spark some ideas for others! Send your pictures to starsofstjohnsucc@gmail.com



Getting to Know You

Keep your eyes open for an email blast that will describe how you can sign up for a virtual "Getting to Know You" gathering with Pastor Bonnie! If you don't have access to email and/or Zoom, please let the church office know, and Pastor Bonnie will reach out to you by phone!



Announcing... Mr. N!

Pastor Bonnie's new Seeing Eye puppy arrives on **June 5!** The pups are named at The Seeing Eye, so she won't know his name until he arrives. She does know that he's a yellow male Labrador Retriever, one of a litter of pups whose names all begin with the letter "N."

If you'd like to guess what her Seeing Eye pup's name will be, send your idea - one guess per person - to Pastor Bonnie at sjfpastor@gmail.com. Yes, there will be a prize if anyone guessed correctly! Stay tuned to meet "Mr. N!"

Gift Card Bingo –

July 24th – 7:00PM – If you purchased tickets for the March or the May bingo, these are good for the July Bingo. If you are unable to attend the July bingo, please call the church office. 610-264-8421

Pastor Michelle's New Address:

Rev. Michelle Funk
4035 Clapp Mill Rd
Burlington, NC 27215