



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

Church Office: 610-264-8421

June 2021



Vol. 14 Issue 5

"Our Church Connection"



"[Mary] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus..."

- John 20:14

One of my favorite places to go on retreat is the New Skete Monastery in Cambridge, New York. As an Orthodox community, their church year calendar is different from ours, so they just celebrated Easter on May 2nd.

Reflecting on the gospel of John's story of Mary's encounter at the empty tomb, one of the monks wrote this:

"Collectively, the resurrection stories in the Gospel leave us with a challenge: do we have the faith, the courage to recognize Jesus in ever-new, more expansive ways? Do we have the openness to allow the power of the resurrection to infuse new life and hope into often tired and cynical attitudes? Will we, this Pascha, allow Jesus to reveal himself in those places where we least expect him? Pascha may still not feel like Pascha this year, but its truth lies not in what we feel, but in what God has done in Jesus Christ."

As we begin in-person gatherings at St. John's, there are many reasons to celebrate, but things will not be "like they were before." We will be wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing; we will be avoiding handshakes and singing. We will grieve those losses. Church will not feel like church - at least as we remember it. But the truth lies not in what we feel, but what God has done, and what God will be doing in the days, weeks and years to come.

I believe that the resurrection stories in the Gospel leave us with a challenge: will we have the faith and the courage to recognize the ever-new, more expansive ways God will be at work in our midst? Will we allow Jesus to reveal himself to us and to our community of faith in ways that are unfamiliar and unexpected? Will we suspend judgment, and allow the power of the resurrection to infuse our lives - and our church - with new life and hope and joy?

By the grace of our resurrected Lord, may it be so!

In ministry with you,

Pastor Bonnie



MEET THE CONSISTORY

Margaret Young

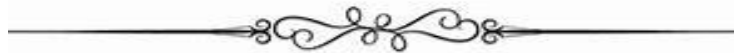
I have been a member of St. John's for over 40 years, I am a member of the Music and Worship Committee and the Evangelist Committee. I am married and have three children. I enjoy baking and spending time with my family. I look forward to serving the church as a member of the Consistory.



Notice: A brief, but important congregational meeting will be held **after the Sunday morning church service on May 30, 2021** to discuss funding sources for the additional funds required to complete the outdoor pavilion, building, and surrounding area in our Field of Dreams. (If you are attending worship via Zoom, you can just stay online; otherwise, you join via Zoom by 10:15 at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81685098134> Meeting ID: 816 8509 8134, phone number 1-646-876-9923.)

Please plan to attend in person or Zoom.

Thank you. Gary Black



The Consistory accepted the letter of resignation from Interim Pastor Bonnie Moore effective August 1, 2021. More information will be forth coming. Please keep St. John's in your prayers as we move forward.

Marion DeMilio, President of Consistory



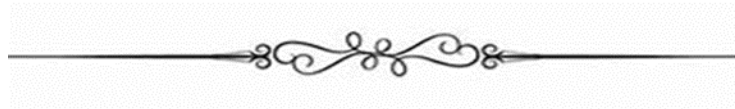
The "Great Nelson"

I am sad to report that Nelson has been removed from The Seeing Eye program due to eye issues. I had high hopes for him, but I know that The Seeing Eye will find him a great home, and I'm pretty sure that he won't complain too much about getting to be a couch potato! Thanks for your support of my "other ministry" of raising Seeing Eye pups! ~ Pastor Bonnie

Visitation Pastor's Report May 2021

I had surgery to repair a torn tendon in my foot on April 21. Since then, my doctor has told me to stay off it (no visits), so I've been making phone calls and Pastor Bonnie has been visiting the people who urgently need pastoral care. My doctor has said I'll get a foot brace on May 20 and I'm hoping to be on the road again after that.

Pastor Dave



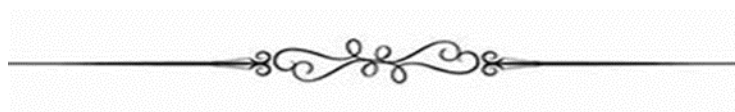
Oh, what a blessed Sunday, May 16th, was as the church sanctuary was opened for worship. The smiles on everyone's faces reminded us the Spirit is alive and has given us hope "no matter what!"

The Consistory accepted the recommendation of the Building Reopening Task Force to open the building for in-person meetings as of June 1, 2021. Committees have the option to meet in person or via Zoom as preferred by the members. Guidelines will be sent to the chairpersons for all to follow.

All our prayers have been answered as we move forward. Our main goal was to keep our pastor, employees and parishioners safe. Thanks be to God!

"The Lord gives strength to his people, the Lord blesses his people with peace." -Psalm 29:11

Marion DeMilio, President of Consistory



Welcome Bill Fink, who was appointed to fill Noreen Miller's unexpired term on Consistory. Thanks, Bill, for agreeing to serve!

Newsletter deadline at St. John's will be the second (2nd) Sunday of each month

Tuesday Talkbacks Continue

Join us every Tuesday at 2 pm for conversation and fellowship. Pastor Bonnie hosts these informal, agenda-free Zoom gatherings. It's a great place to learn new tricks about using Zoom! Use the following Zoom meeting ID with the Sunday worship passcode: 889 9327 5253. Contact the church office if you need additional information.

Are you receiving church envelopes, but not using them? If you are giving electronically, please call the church office, so we can stop the church envelopes from being mailed to you.

Do you receive St. John's "Mail Chimp" email blasts?

They are sent out periodically to provide updated information about upcoming church events. If you don't receive these emails and would like to, please provide your email address to the church office at 610-264-8421 or sjofficesecretary@gmail.com. Thanks!

Let's help save trees!! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email as opposed by mail, please call Deb at the church office so she can add you to the email group.

Redner's Receipt Tapes

Please continue to use your Redner's card and save your register receipts for the church. We are continuing to collect them and receive money back from Redner's. Even though we have not had as many tapes turned in, we still just received a check for \$75.00. Please turn your tapes in to the church office as we will continue submitting them. This is just another way to help the church financially just by purchasing your groceries and turning in the receipts.

Shorti Hoagie Coupons for sale thru the "Fun" Raising Committee.

They are \$5 each, and they do not expire - you can use them at any WAWA. They make great thank you gifts to someone who is shopping for you, or birthday presents for friends and loved ones, just about any reason at all. Support St. John's UCC Fullerton. If you are interested in any coupons, please contact Kenda Catalini @ 484-358-7453. Kenda has all coupons, none are available at the church office.

GROCERY GIFT CARDS



Weis and Giant gift cards are available for purchase in various denominations. The church receives a percentage on each one that you purchase. If interested, please contact Debbie in the church office 610-264-8421.

BIBLE SCHOOL WITH A TWIST! Mark your calendars for SUNDAY, JULY 11TH

- Vacation Bible School in a Box...!

Since we will not be having VBS in the church, we are offering families a chance to enjoy VBS together as a family.

You can pick up your **VBS IN A BOX** after the church service for those of you who will be in church that morning.

If you are not attending church service, you will be able to pick up your **VBS IN A BOX** at 1:00 in the afternoon in the Grape St. church parking lot. **VBS IN A BOX** will be for ages **Pre-school thru 4th Grade**. (St. John's church members only)

ALL THE FIXINS for the 5 days will be in your **VBS IN A BOX**. Share a family fun- filled week of reading together the BIBLE stories, doing crafts together and enjoying yummy snacks.

Please call Debbie at the church office to register your child or email Debbie at sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com

YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED to pick up your VBS IN A BOX ON - SUNDAY JULY 11TH. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER JUNE 30TH.**



CONGRATULATIONS ST. JOHN'S WALKERS

The Spring 2021 Walking Challenge was a huge success. We had 24 walkers who walked a total of 5,021,494 steps. This was the second walking challenge at St. John's, and both times, our walkers went over FIVE MILLION STEPS in four weeks. We're so proud of everyone who participated; it was a lot of fun. There already is interest in another walk so keep watching the newsletters for the next one.

Healthcare Ministry

St. John's Prayer Chain Committee

Did you know St John's has a prayer chain group, currently with about 15 members? If you are interested in keeping others in prayer, we are always welcoming new members to join us. Please contact [Kim Hillegass](mailto:kim1257@aol.com) at [610-360-7895](tel:610-360-7895) or kim1257@aol.com and we will gladly add you to the group. Most of our communications are done by email when requests come in but calls will be made to members who don't have an email address. Please join us.

In need of prayers for you or someone you know? You can contact the Office or Pastor or Kim to have someone added to our list.



An excerpt from a letter from Bob Wittman, Jr, whose mother, Ruth Wittman died on March 15, 2021:

Although Mom remained distant from the St. John's congregation, including from so many of her friends from Dubbs, who transitioned to the new church, the St. John's congregation never abandoned her. It treated her like a lifelong member, reaching out to her with card showers and delivering holiday gift bags. I am especially appreciative of the many pastoral visits you made to my Mother at her home on S. Lumber Street, as well as to St. Luke's Hospital during her stay there and eventually to Cedarbrook Nursing Home; right up until the pandemic made personal visits impossible.

My mother was the beneficiary of St. John's good work. I am grateful for the care and concern demonstrated by so many. Thank you so much.

Bob Wittman, Jr.

Bob Danner wanted to thank everyone who sent him a birthday card for his **102 birthday**. Thank you all!

Bob Danner

It is with regret that the Mission Committee accepted the resignation of long-time committee member **Connie Viglione**. We thank Connie for her commitment and dedication and her 16 years of service to this committee.

Jean McGonigle, Mission Committee Chairperson

THANK YOU! For all the prayers and cards, and the beautiful basket of flowers sent by Consistory upon the death of my sister. ALS is a horrible disease, and although she will be greatly missed, we are all grateful that her suffering was short-lived.

Thank you for your love and support during this time. - *Pastor Bonnie*

JUST ANOTHER WAY TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

I am currently scheduling the scripture readers for St. John's services. I know there are more people that have read the scriptures in the past and would like to add you to the list of people that I already have. The scriptures can be read via Zoom or in person once we resume in-person services. Please either call me at 610-443-0161 or email me at cstauffer206@aol.com. I currently contacted everyone with the available opportunities via email.

This is a very easy way to assist your church....Be the Church....No Matter What!

Cheryl Weaver

Text-to-Give!

Here's another way you can make secure donations to St. John's via your smartphone! Text the amount you want to donate to (844) 935-3593 - it's a free call! The first time you do this, you will be led through a step-by-step process to set up your giving account and make payments via a credit card or direct debit from your checking account. For future donations, all you will need to do is text the amount of your donation to that number. (Note from Pastor Bonnie - I have that phone number saved on my phone as "Give" so I don't have to remember the phone number!) All donations made via text-to-give will be included on your end-of-the-year giving statement.

You can also text funds to the same number to see a list of funds to which you can donate to, then text the amount you want to give, space, and fund name to donate to a specific fund. Unspecified donations received through text-to-give will go to the St. John's UCC General Operating Fund. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. John's!

Confirmation Class May 2, 2021

Congratulations Ethan, Michael, Cole, Chris, Zoe, Conner, and Carter!



Front Row (left to right) Cole Buskirk, Zoe Roth, Ethan Brobst

Back Row (left to right) Michael Baatz, Chris Leibensperger, Conner Strauss, Carter Troxell



JOE CORBI'S FUN-RAISING SALE

If you are tired of cooking during this pandemic, the fun-raising committee has the perfect solution for you. Get ready to satisfy your craving for everything from breakfast to dessert and all things in between. The fun-raising committee is having a Joe Corbi's/Claire's Gourmet sale. Delivery and pick-up will be on July 16th so mark your calendars. Below is a list of all the items that will be available. Like always, please include your check made payable to St. John's U.C.C. with your order. Please send your completed order and payment to the church office (Attention: Tracey Glass). If you have any questions, please call Tracey Glass @610-905-8426 or Cheryl Weaver @610-443-0161.

		Qty.	Total
Pizzas			
Cheese pizza kit (makes 3 pies)	\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
Sausage pizza kit (makes 3 pies)	\$ 27.25	_____	\$ _____
Pepperoni Pizza kit (makes 3 pies)	\$ 27.25	_____	\$ _____
White pizza kit (makes 3 pies)	\$ 26.00	_____	\$ _____
Wheat pizza kit (makes 3 pies)	\$ 26.50	_____	\$ _____
Gluten free pizza kit (makes 4 pies)	\$ 27.00	_____	\$ _____
Chee-zee bread kit (makes 12 slices)	\$ 24.50	_____	\$ _____
 Joe Juniors			
Cheese pizzas (makes 8 pizzas)	\$ 24.00	_____	\$ _____
Pepperoni pizzas (makes 8 pizzas)	\$ 25.75	_____	\$ _____
Breakfast bacon pizzas (makes 8 pizzas)	\$ 25.75	_____	\$ _____
 Zap A Snacks			
Cheese (makes 6 slices)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Supreme (makes 6 slices)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Five cheese (makes 6 slices)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Pepperoni (makes 6 slices)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Three meat (makes 6 slices)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
 Calzones			
Pepperoni four cheese (6 per box)	\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
Philly cheesesteak (6 per box)	\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
 Cookies			
Milk chocolate chip (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$ _____
Oatmeal Raisin (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$ _____

Choc. Chip peanut butter cut (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
M &M's (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
White Choc. Macadamia (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Snickerdoodle (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Semi-sweet choc. Chip (40 cookies)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Cookie lover's variety-choc. Chip, sugar & snicker doodle (40 cookies)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Cinnabon cookie (40 cookies)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$

Miscellaneous

Soft pretzels (12 per box)	\$ 17.00	_____	\$
Jalapeno pretzel poppers (1.5 lb. box)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Pretzel dogs (6 pack)	\$ 19.00	_____	\$
Funnel cakes (10 per box)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Churros (12 per box)	\$ 18.00	_____	\$
Pumpkin roll (20 oz. roll)	\$ 16.00	_____	\$
Lemon cooler cake (2 lbs. 12 oz.)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Strawberry cream cake (2 lbs. 12 oz.)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Vanilla pound cake (2 pack - 2 lbs.)	\$ 17.00	_____	\$
Gourmet apple pie (3 lbs. 2 oz. unbaked)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Gourmet cinnamon rolls (12 rolls)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Reese's peanut btr. cup cheesecake (30 oz.)	\$ 21.00	_____	\$
NY style plain cheesecake (30 oz.)	\$ 20.00	_____	\$
Variety sampler cheesecake - plain, strawberry, turtle & triple choc. (12 slices, 2 lbs.)	\$ 23.00	_____	\$

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



1	Kasey Thompson	13	Lynn Miller
	Kevin Weidner	15	Gary Madaus
3	Nicholas Riedy	16	Melody Fox
	Aaron Young	17	Logan Headman
4	Keith Held		Samuel Yoder
	Linda Luckenbill	19	Scott Rapchak
5	Connor Dimmick	20	Charles Apple
	Jeffrey Seeds		Sophia Pagan
	Zachary Szoke	21	Kristen VanFleet
6	Gregg Fisher	22	Brandon Deutsch
	Margaret Huegel		Cheryl Mill
8	Bruce Hess	24	Stephen Reck
	Chad Marinkovits		Ernest Zellner, Jr.
9	Richard Bateman	25	Susan Bartholomew
	Louiseann Hein		Donna Lipsky
	Joan Yura		Dale Serfass
12	Julie Beck	26	Patricia Yanavok
13	Linda Geissinger	29	Thomas Gersbach

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



6/02/1979	Robert & Cheryl Mill	6/19/???	Linda & Keith Helfrich
6/04/1986	Richard & Traci Hicks	6/20/1959	Terry & Madeline Leibenguth
6/05/1965	Glenn & Carol Buskirk	6/20/1987	Andrew & Judith Doyle
6/07/1969	John & Nancy Bennett	6/20/2015	William & Tara Roth, Jr.
6/09/2018	Donald & Dianna Schneck	6/21/1975	Franklin & Natalie Reichl
6/11/1983	David & Donna Brown	6/24/1989	Randy & Cathy Bachman
6/13/1964	Thomas & Doris Hunsicker	6/25/2005	Sheryn & Mark Chwastiak
6/14/1969	Gary & Ruthann Hallman	6/29/2002	Brian & Bonnie Strauss
6/16/1963	Larry & Freda Albright	6/30/1979	George & Sharon Romberger
6/17/2017	Troy & Brittany Rothrock		

JUNE MUSIC NOTES



We All Are One in Mission is a hymn written by Dr. Rusty Edwards to provide Christians with a hymn that articulates a contemporary vision of the mission of the church.

Dr. Edwards was born in 1955 in Illinois. He graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy, the University of Nebraska, Luther Seminary, and Graduate Theological Foundation at Notre Dame, Indiana, and the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Following his ordination in 1985, he served Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline, Illinois, and is currently senior pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois, and pastoral advisor for Rockford Lutheran High School and is on the board of the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity.

We All Are One in Mission expresses the unity of the church, united around “a single, great commission.” Though we have varied gifts, we are “united by Christ, the Lord of all.” “We all are called to service to witness in God’s name.” Through our varied ministries, we “touch the lives of others” as they experience “God’s surprising grace and warm embrace.”

The unity of the church, local and universal, is at the heart of this hymn. It is not the responsibility of only missionaries or ordained clergy to practice mission in all of its forms, but is integral to the service of all in the church who are united by Christ and have a sense of His “resurrected Justice.”

We will sing this hymn June 13th. It has been published with ten different tunes. We will use the tune *Aurelia*, which is the tune we use when singing *The Church’s One Foundation*. The words strongly encourage us to be united and let our song be heard as we are called to be a vessel for God’s redeeming Word.

Musically,

Gail

Mission Moment!

Whitehall Food Pantry



Thank you to the 36 families who came with food and monetary contributions to the Whitehall Food Pantry Donation Drive-by on May 8. An entire carload, filled to the brim with food, was then taken to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Whitehall where Gary Black, Jim Carr, and Karen Stoitsits unloaded the items. The following Monday morning, volunteers came and stocked the shelves, getting ready for distribution to the pantry's clients that evening.

Since church is re-opening on May 16, members can now bring in donated food items and place them in the shopping cart located in the coatroom next to the sanctuary.

Enclosed with the newsletter you will find a special offering envelope for the Whitehall Food Pantry. If you receive this newsletter by email, please consider contributing by either mailing in your donation to the church office or giving on-line or by texting.

* * *

Collection of Backpacks & School Supplies



Just to let you know we will be conducting a Backpack & School Supplies Donation Drive-by for the Whitehall-Coplay School District on Saturday, July 17, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. For those of you attending worship, soon you will find a collection box in the coatroom by the sanctuary for you to place your donations. Deadline to receive items is August 1. A list of items needed and further details will be in the next newsletter.

* * *

How did our St. John's Family do?

Recent Outreaches	April	Year-to-Date	2020
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,713.80	\$5,981.10	\$6,547.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 65.00	\$ 866.80 Final	\$ 889.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 90.00	\$ 810.00	\$ 932.00
Mask Ministry	-0-	\$ 43.00	N/A

St John's UCC Fullerton				
Fund Balances				
For Month Ending, APR 2021				
Account		Mar-21	Apr-21	Difference
Checking Account-KNBT	\$	36,400.48	\$ 38,931.33	\$ 2,530.85
Giant Card Funds	\$	980.01	\$ 945.01	\$ (35.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$	945.00	\$ 945.00	\$ -
sub-total General Fund Assets		\$ 38,325.49	\$ 40,821.34	\$ 2,495.85
IN & OUT Account-KNBT Checking	\$	120,020.79	\$ 132,430.79	\$ 12,410.00
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$	76,856.73	\$ 76,859.00	\$ 2.27
sub-total Restricted Assets		\$ 196,877.52	\$ 209,289.79	\$ 12,412.27
Endowment Fund-KNBT	\$	500,678.23	\$ 515,329.59	\$ 14,651.36
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	735,881.24	\$ 765,440.72	\$ 29,559.48
ELECTRONIC OFFERING - AVAILABLE NOW!				
Electronic Offering is a great way to give to the church on a more consistent basis!				
It is simple to get set up! Call Tom Moyer for more information				
or fill out a form located in the back of the church!				
If you have any questions, please contact me. --Sue Weldner, Treasurer				
610-509-4674 or sbweldner@gmail.com				

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

APR 2021

Income	Electronic	4/4/2021	4/11/2021	4/18/2021	4/25/2021	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$ 6,947.21	\$ 4,631.05	\$ 2,069.80	\$ 4,604.00	\$ 2,460.40	\$ 20,712.46
Rental Income--Gross		\$ 2,356.00				\$ 2,356.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$ (890.71)	\$ 21.00			\$ (869.71)
Endowment Interest				\$ 5,271.00		\$ 5,271.00
Flowers						\$ -
Christian Education	\$ 30.00					\$ 30.00
Special Gifts						\$ -
Total	\$ 6,977.21	\$ 6,096.34	\$ 2,090.80	\$ 9,875.00	\$ 2,460.40	\$ -

Expense Summary		Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services		\$ 11,297.04	\$ 12,868.00	\$ (1,570.96)
Staff Salaries & Expense		\$ 8,559.47	\$ 10,676.00	\$ (2,116.53)
Property		\$ 3,207.15	\$ 4,025.00	\$ (817.85)
Parish Programs		\$ 2,249.99	\$ 3,683.00	\$ (1,433.01)
Total		\$ 25,313.65	\$ 31,252.00	\$ (5,938.35)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$ 27,499.75	\$ 107,222.58
Total Expenses	\$ 25,313.65	\$ 96,483.68
***** Net INCOME	\$ 2,186.10	\$ 10,738.90

Mission Giving, APR 2021

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$ 1,713.80
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 65.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$ 90.00
Total	\$ 1,868.80

The Search Committee again would like to thank you for all your responses to our surveys. We thought you might like to see what results those responses brought to the profile. The first two surveys are reported in their entirety since they consisted of facts mostly. The third survey, Welcoming Diversity has been summarized according to percentages of responses.

Survey #1 "Who is God calling to minister to us?"

- A pastor who is an effective preacher/speaker
- A pastor who is effective in planning and leading worship
- An individual who is caring and compassionate
- A pastor who is effective in working with youth
- A pastor who ministers effectively to people in crisis situations
- A pastor who maintains confidentiality
- A pastor who builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works and can develop a good rapport with the congregation
- A pastor who is a good leader
- A pastor who helps people develop their spiritual life
- A pastor who is a helpful counselor
- A pastor who encourages people to relate their faith to their everyday lives
- A pastor who is accepting of people with divergent views and is committed to racial justice
- A pastor who is effective in working with children
- A pastor who can deal effectively with conflict
- An individual who is mature and emotionally secure
- Has a sense of humor and who shows joy in worship/fellowship
- Open to change with a sense of the Ecumenical Church

Additional responses not listed in the checklist of the survey:

Supports & encourages mission in the church, both local (food bank, homelessness, etc.) and national/international (OCWM, OGHS, NIN, etc.)

Welcoming and Caring

10 isn't enough to choose - great list

These were hard choices - I liked them all

Traditional worship using the E&R doctrine along with the UCC

Has a sense of humor

An extroverted person who shows joy in worship and other church functions

Accepting of the gay/lesbian community

Effective at changing things that "have always been done that way"

Is committed to racial justice

Has a strong sense of the Ecumenical Church.

Develops rapport with the congregation

Keeps political views to themselves

Maintains vital connection with other pastors

Preaches from the Bible and doesn't try to change the meaning just to go along with what today's society wants to hear

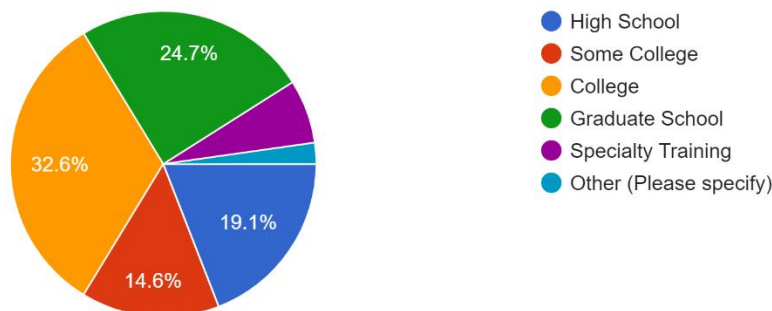
An energetic pastor who can strengthen us in numbers and services post pandemic

Survey #2 – “What do you value most about living in our area?”

- Close proximity to everything from big cities to rural areas to the east coast, you can easily enjoy sports, recreation, culture and entertainment
We are within 60 minutes of Philadelphia, rural Lancaster County or the Pocono Mountains
- Good healthcare and schools
- Good employment opportunities, especially in healthcare, education and Warehousing/distribution
- Closeness of community and family

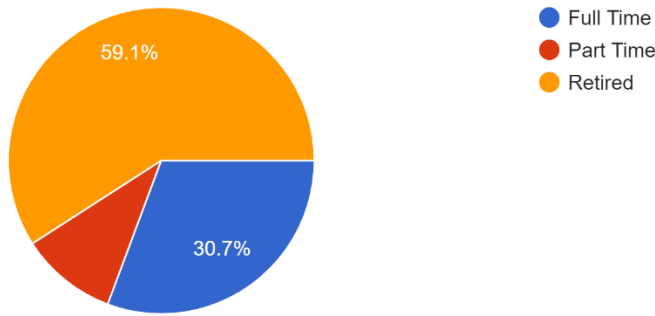
What is the highest level of education you have completed?

89 responses



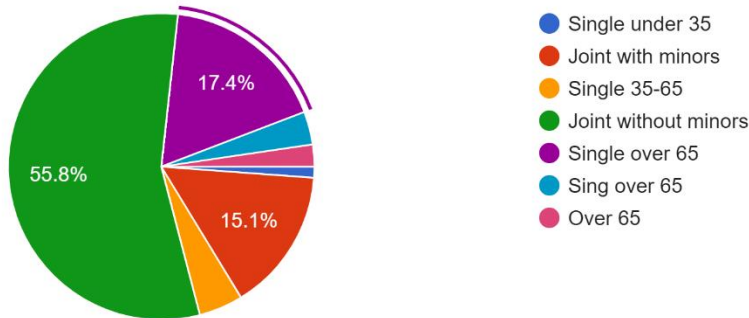
Employment:

88 responses



Household:

86 responses



Survey #3 – Welcoming Diversity Survey

PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES, VALUES – WHAT WE HOLD IN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS AFFECT OUR ACTIONS.

St. John’s has covenanted to be an Open and Affirming church. This is reflected in the hearts and minds of our leadership and our congregation (85%). While we often address the topics of diversity and anti-racism, we in fact have too little diversity within our congregation to have those members recruited and equipped for leadership (49.1%). For that same reason, we have not had any issues in the past with prejudice/discrimination that warranted a process of reconciliation (71%)

LEADERSHIP/ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Our leadership promotes anti-racism and diversity (67.9%) We as a whole have a system of greeting in place to welcome everybody (82%), however there are no “teams” designated for greeting newcomers (63.2%), rather this is something we all just do on our own. We select vendors from bidding/cost methods, we do not consider diversity when ordering our supplies/services (75.4%).

WORSHIP

We have evolved from a traditional worship service to a more family friendly worship, with diverse music and presentations (82.4%). All who wish to worship with us are welcome, no matter what walk of life you come from. We express this each Sunday.

VISUAL

Although literature often comes to us showing pictures of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, survey responses show the congregation is unsure of whether or not our library and classroom supplies show a representation of racial/ethnic people (75.4). Most survey participants feel our displays, brochures and publicity pieces do reflect diversity (64.3%).

EDUCATION

Our faith is presented in terms of the history, tradition and contribution of minority cultures (69.6) and we strive to teach our youth for respect for diversity (91.7%) but according to the survey our congregation is unsure (70.2%) or selected not true (29.8%) in response to any diversity sensitivity training on or off site, nor do we consult racial/ethnic people when we select new curriculum or education materials (80.7%).

EVENTS

We invite racial/ethnic groups to share in opportunities for outreach, recreation and worship at some events (Community Days, Vacation Bible School) (50%). The majority of survey participants felt we do not often promote times for members to visit or participate in other racial/ethnic groups' work, play or worship (59.6%).