

St. John's UCC, Fullerton 575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052 March 2019



March 2019 Vol. 12 Issue 3 "Our Church Connection"

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St. John's UCC, Fullerton 575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA "Our Church Connection" newsletter is published monthly. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:21

Dear Friends,

"You are welcome here!" The United Church of Christ has an open communion table. We don't check confirmation attendance or look into your criminal background. If you want to know Jesus, if you want to talk with our Lord, if you find meaning in the sacrament – you are welcome to participate. If you are simply hungry - You are invited to participate. For me, this is clearly part of the 'mystery' of our faith. I believe something so profound can happen between God and an individual during communion. I also believe it is not my job to stand in the way.

So... February 3rd at our 8:15 a.m. worship service, I got challenged on my theology. Is everyone welcome? What about everything? As we began the liturgy for Holy Communion, after the invitation that all were welcome was extended, I went to uncover the chalice. There it was – a huge stink bug. I jumped! In reaction to my jump, Pastor Michelle also jumped. We looked at each other, first in shock, then with laughter.

What was I going to do with this stink bug? It was walking about now. It was coming out from between the white folds of the communion cloth deciding if it should jump down onto the altar.

The professional side of me kicked in, ignored the bug and we shared in the sacrament. After it was over, I did tell the 8:15 crowd about our visitor. We laughed together as we visualized a God with an incredible sense of humor.

Coming together as a community of believers at the

communion table, unites us with Christians throughout God's world. You are welcome. You are loved. You are cherished by a God who seeks to support every little creature. Even a stink bug. This huge, black, yucky, loved by God bug... lives on! (I'm sorta hoping the bug becomes a Lutheran... or Methodist... or Baptist... you get the drift!)

See you in church! Buck

Thank You!!!

Dear Becky,

Thank you so much for the beautiful service you performed for my Dad, Bill Wasley, Sr., and for caring so much for him. My brothers and I really appreciate your kindness during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Judy Carr

Dec

Thank you for my warm and cozy blanket. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness with your enjoyable visits.

In appreciation, Virginia Owens Thank you to the Pastors for remembering me and listing me on the prayer chain and for all the people that sent me cards during the Christmas Season

Harry Houser

Dear Members of St. John's,

Greetings from United Zion Retirement Community! Thank you sincerely for the big surprise package! I am really enjoying all the yummy goodies, greetings from the children and the snuggly blanket-throw on these chilly days.

It seems strange to be on the receiving end, since I, too, enjoyed serving on the Visitation Committee there at St. John's.

Blessings! Roberta Haberern



Pastor Becky,

Thank you so much for such a beautiful celebration of life service for my brother, Dan!

In time, through strong faith, the Matika/Focht families will start to heal!

Sincerely, The Focht and The Matika Families

Thank you to everyone that attended our Soup Luncheon to benefit "Souperbowl of Caring". We enjoyed 8 delicious soups, fellowship and fun! Thank you to everyone who took the time to make soups and desserts! We raised over \$500 for Second Harvest Food Bank! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Way to "Be the Church"!

The Faith Formation & Youth Groups

Dear St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Every year we are amazed by the selfless generosity and heartfelt kindness displayed by hundreds of donors from our community, in an effort to make the holidays brighter for the neediest youth and families served by our programs. Thank you for making spirits bright during this holiday season and all year long.

Fulfilling our vision of a world in which every young person belongs to a nurturing community would not be possible without the support of thoughtful people like you. On behalf of Valley Youth House and the youth we serve, thank you for your help in expanding our reach to the most vulnerable within our community

Sincerely,

Christina J. Schoemaker, M.B.A., Senior Vice President, Development & Marketing ~ Valley Youth House

> Hospital Code for our church - 473

Thank you for the gift of \$1550 for the PNEC and PSEC Joint Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. We will apply \$1000 of this gift to the expenses incurred by volunteers David and Noemi Quinn with the remaining money going for financial aid or expenses incurred by the trip.

The UCC has committed itself to help those displaced by the hurricane in Puerto Rico so that they can begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Gifts like yours make relief efforts possible.

May God bless the Mission Committee and the members of the Crafters Group who so generously gave to the *Rebuild Mission to Puerto Rico*.

Gratefully, Rev. Dr. Bonnie L. Bates PNEC Conference Minister



"Thanks to the good people of St. John's UCC, some families in Puerto Rico will take another step in their recovery. I am proud that individuals and congregations have stepped up to support this joint effort of the PNEC and PSEC, in cooperation with the national UCC Disaster Ministries. Thanks to you for helping us address the needs of the Puerto Rican people with your generous gift of \$1550 towards sponsoring our Mission Trips in April and May."

Shalom,

Rev. Karl Jones PSEC Disaster Response Coordinator

Sec 0.

I want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and visits. Also a special thank you to Pastor Quinn for communion.

May you all be blessed! Marietta Seyfried



Thank you to Pastor Quinn, Emilie Moyer and Betty Millham for their visit to my sister Peggy and me, over the holidays.

We were so happy to see them and really appreciated the 'goodie bags' they brought. They were so full of treats and supplies that are very useful to us.

Just sitting and talking with them and hearing the updates about our church and congregation were heartwarming.

Thank you, Marie Fatzinger and Peggy Snyder



Dear St. John's UCC, Fullerton congregation,

We are writing to thank you for your recent gift in the amount of \$273.55 directed to our Jubilee Ministry to the Homeless.

We appreciate this generous contribution to the ministry and mission of Zion's Church. Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely, Rev. Robert T. Stevens Senior Pastor Zion's United Church of Christ

Our Church Family

Baptisms

1-27 **Zoey Madison Schambers**, the daughter of Amy and Marc Schambers was baptized.

2-10 **Ella Elizabeth Marino**, the daughter of Abby and Nick Marino was baptized. Ella has older brothers Jayce and Bryce.

Deaths

Daniel Focht died on January 12th and we celebrated his life on January 18th. Dan "Lippy" had a long time partner Karen Matika, daughter Ashlee, brother Bill and sisters Cynthia, Donna and Karen.

William "Bill" Wasley died on January 14th and we celebrated his life at St. John's on January 18th. Bill's wife Lois died on January 17th, 2018. Their children are Bill Jr., Scott, and Judy Carr.

Leon Kuhns died on January 16th. His graveside service was on January 23rd. Leon's wife is Fern and they have a son Brian.

"Be The Church"

The theme for St. John's UCC, Fullerton for 2019 is "Be The Church." We will be explaining more during the upcoming months but the idea is that each of us must Be The Church. This occurs when we are together but we also go into the world where we must Be The Church.

How will you Be The Church this year? How will God make a difference through the willingness of each member at St. John's. Start visioning on how each of us can embrace this Be the Church movement.



Upcoming Baptisms

- $2-24 \sim$ Maggie Shae Laders $3-31 \sim$ Sofie Claire Miller
- $3-31 \sim$ Sofie Claire Miller



Wedding

February 2nd Jodi Williams and Jennifer Snyder were married. We wish them much happiness.



Milt Focht's 90th Birthday Celebration

Milton Focht turned 90 on January 7th. So to celebrate his birthday he wanted to invite former students and colleagues to join him at Crest Hall at Luther Crest in Allentown in a bassoon concert. He has taught most of the bassoonists in the area for decades and is a veteran player of the Allentown Band and Allentown Symphony Orchestra. There were at least a dozen bassoonists who joined him that day.

There were more than 200 in attendance to enjoy the concert. The program featured bassoon trios and quartets and covered a variety of musical ground from Mozart and Wagner to rags by Scott Joplin and Milt's own arrangement of Yankee Doodle. There were no rehearsals. Musicians were handed the music when they arrived at Luther Crest.

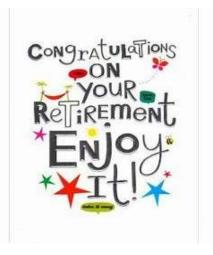
Milt was on cloud nine throughout the evening! What a wonderful way for Milt to celebrate his birthday! Happy Birthday Milt!



Thank You Emilie Moyer

Emilie Moyer has been our church pianist since 1985 and has recently submitted her resignation. Emilie is retiring from her position, but is not retiring from us! She will continue to be an active member who will now be able to sit with her husband in worship. Emilie will also continue as part of our Bell Choir.

Now it is time to celebrate her 34 years of ministry! On May 19th we will begin our 9:30 a.m. service. Following the service we will celebrate Emilie in Fox Hall with cake and surprises. Please join us.



You could also write a note to Emilie thanking here for sharing in her awesome gift of music.



Change of Address:

Scott Miller 40 Lincoln Street Allentown, PA 18102-5012

Mr. Brian Kuhns PO Box 1961 Scranton, PA 18505-0961



Stephen Reck 4501 Connecticut Ave., NW Apt. 1008 Washington, DC 20008-3720

Personnel Committee: Thank You Larry Albright

13 years ago we began the St. John's Personnel Committee. Larry Albright has been a faithful member ever since the inception. He has decided to step down. We are looking forward to welcoming new members Carole O'Connell and Tim Silfies.

Bob Bold Honored as Friend of Education

The Parkland Education Association honored its first Friend of Education – Robert E. Bold. The honor was bestowed at a dinner of the Lehigh-Northampton Counties local association of The Pennsylvania State Education Association. Bob has been a member of the Parkland School Board since 1999.

He served as president of the board five terms and vice-president three terms. He leads the Buildings and Grounds Committee and is the legislative liaison for Region 8. Bold received the honor School Board Director Master from the Pennsylvania State Education Association. Bob is President of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 board. Bob began his career in education at the Harrison Morton Print Shop in 1968. He then moved on to William Allen High School where he spent most of his teaching years. He retired in 1998 after 30 years of service with the Allentown School District.

Congratulations Bob!

March Anniversaries

March 3 – Nancy & Robert Dougherty – 40 years
March 5 – Karen & Tim Christman – 42 years
March 6 – Noreen & Bruce Miller – 37 years
Judith & Matthew Sommer – 20 years
Kerri & Eric Deigert – 3 years
March 7 – Louise & Harry Houser – 55 years
March 9 – Janet & Gary Black – 45 years
DonnaLee & Dewey Yeatts – 28 years
March 14 – Bettyjane & Joseph Bonshak – 56 years
March 20 – Ellen & George Updegrove – 25 years
March 24 – Susan & Dale Brinker – 40 years
March 28 – Susan & Richard Kaiser – 27 years





Appeared in This Week in PNEC on Jan. 10, 2019 Update on Rev. Alan Miller

Alan was seen at Duke yesterday for a repeat brain MRI for autoimmune encephalitis. The MRI is stable which means no swelling in the hippocampus, the part of the brain responsible for memories. He is much improved from last year at this time. He still has trouble with memory, which we are told is "this is the nature of the disease". His memories are gone, for the time being, for approximately 25

years. We are praying that his memories will return. He has remembered people all along the way, which is amazing. He will be receiving Rituximab January 18th. This is a chemo drug to kill off the autoimmune encephalitis antibodies attacking his brain. We are forever grateful for all of your prayers. Journal Entry by Candy Miller – January 3, 2019



Miller Baptism

Ash → Dash: March 6th 7:30-8:30AM AND 4:00-6:00PM

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

On Ash Wednesday we will again offer Ash & Dash. It was very well received last year and we had a lot of people participate. Pastors Becky and Michelle will be in the parking lot ready to pray with people and offer them ashes. The ashes on a forehead is the marking of a Christian who is beginning the season of Lent. Some people are not able to attend an Ash Wednesday service and so we are hoping they will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Ash Wednesday Worship March 6th 7:00 P.M.



Our traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 6th. It will feature prayers, ashes and Holy Communion. A message will be shared and our choir will bless us with their great music. This is an awesome way to begin Lent.

7



March 24

March 31

Daylight Saving Time

begins March 10

Wine And Word (Jpdate

Watch for the next gathering in August.

Wednesdays "Soup & Bread" Lenten Services: Interactive Etc. "Be The Saint" – 6:30PM

This year for the 2019 Lenten Season we are offering a Soup & Bread Supper in Fox Hall with some interactive worship time. We will be looking at some individuals who might claim the title of saint for their lives/ministries. Some of the individuals are from the past and some are alive and ministering today. These nights will be times of learning, sharing, and great soups! Please join us!! Dates are: March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10

We Need: Soups, Breads, Etc.

Would you like to share a soup or bread or dessert for our Lenten services? There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Beverages will be provided each week. You could also call the church office if you would like to help.

March: "Be The Church: Reject Racism" White Privilege: What Is It All About? March 10th @ 9:30AM

Rev. Rebecca "Becca" Stephens is leading a discussion on White Privilege during the 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation time. Becca will be sharing some information and helping us to understand what "privilege' is all about. There is some eye-opening information. Please join us in this important discussion. There will be time for questions.

Confirmation & Faith Traditions

The Confirmation class was out and about on February 15th! Their gathering time started at 9:00 a.m. where they started with prayer and talked about their day. They headed out to Lehigh Conference

of Churches where they met Rabbi Seth Phillips who spoke of the Jewish faith. Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens, Ecumenical Director gave the youth a tour of Dubbs Center. The group then headed to the Mosque at the Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley to meet with the Iman. The class worshiped with the Muslims and were treated to lunch at the mosque. We headed back to the church and on Sunday the 17th the class, drivers (Tracey Fisher & Beth Neitz) met along with Pastors Becky and Michelle to discuss their learnings.



Nednesday

SERVICE



8

March 24th "End Of Life Decision Making" (Please Note Date Change)

We will start with a (mostly) healthy lunch prepared by the Healthcare committee members and friends. After the lunch there will be a presentation on "End of Life Decision Making" We are looking to balance spiritual with secular/legal decisions that need to be at the end of a life. This important discussion will touch on many issues that we all need to be aware of for ourselves, our families and friends. We will have the opportunity to talk openly, ask questions, and know we are in a comfortable setting.

12:00 Lunch ~ ~ 12:30 Presentation

Panel includes: Rev. Lynne Mikulak, M.Div., MSW ~ Lynne is St. Luke's Hospital Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education. She will be speaking on end of life in a hospital setting. Lynn will share information that we all need to be thinking about for the future. She will be helping us to understand the program entitled, *5 Wishes Advance Directive*.

Mr. Jay Gilbert, Licensed Funeral Director, Lehigh County Coroner's Office; Jay is well known and loved in the Whitehall area. He has worked/ministered with families through the most difficult of times. Jay will share information about today's funeral practices and options. He will have information for us to consider for ourselves and loved ones.

Rev. Dr. Becky J. Beckwith, M.Div., D.Min. Becky is our Sr. Pastor who will be speaking about the end of life from a spiritual perspective. Becky will also be moderating the discussion.

Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office. Bring your friends!



It's TEA TIME! Save the date.... Saturday, May 4th

The "FunRaising" committee will be sponsoring an Afternoon Tea in Fox Hall on <u>Saturday, May 4th</u>. Mark this date on your calendar now and start getting the names of your parties together as this event will be assigned seating. Tickets will be on sale starting mid-March and will be limited to 100 people. Tickets <u>will not</u> be available on the day of the event.

Further details such as theming, menu, pricing and time will be announced prior to the ticket sales. Read your bulletin, newsletter, and watch the announcements on the screen for additional information.



Updates On Committees: New Chairpersons

Leadership at St. Johns is taken seriously and shared. Our committee chairpersons change at least every three years to give others opportunities to serve and to welcome in new ideas.

2019 some new people started in the leadership roles. We give thanks to Blodwyn Wetherhold for serving as chairperson of the Visitation Committee. Donna Brown for serving 3 years as chairperson of the Church Usage Committee, Susan Rarich for serving 3 years as the chairperson of STARs and Kathy Nelson who served 3 years as Christian Education chairperson. We are grateful for your leadership. All of these chairpersons have agreed to stay on the committees.



We are grateful for our new leaders ~ New Chairpersons are:

Christian Education: Karen Stoisits STARs: Michelle Gutekunst

Church Usage: Ted Hess Visitation: Pat Thompson



Conference Of Churches: Lehigh Valley Over The Edge

Pastor Dave Quinn is going over the edge!!!! AND, we should support his efforts! He hopes to be one to climb to the top of Two City Center, an 11 story office/retail building on the corner of 7th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown. He will repel down the 11 stories along with up to 75 others. We need to work with him to raise \$1,000.

Lehigh Conference of Churches is partnering with Center City Allentown to raise over \$100,000 to help local families and individuals facing severe consequences of poverty such as homelessness and food insecurity as well as behavior health conditions and severe mental health disorders.

If you are also interested, or want to be part of a team that helps sponsor this event, please speak with Pastor Becky.



Hop on Over - Easter and Spring Crafts are Coming!



The Crafters Group will have Easter and Spring decorations and other craft items for sale on Sundays, March 24 and March 31.

Craft items will be on display in the lounge area. You can visit before and after each worship service to make your purchases.

Here is a list of some handmade Craft items we have available for sale all year long:

- ♦ Kitchen T-Towels
- Table RunnersFingertip Towels
- Dishcloths
- Potholders
- ◆ Scrubbies
- ♦ Bread Cloths
- ◆ Cork Hotplates
- Covered Hangers

◆ Plastic Bag Holders

Boo Boo BunniesAmerican Girl Doll Sweaters

♦ Baby Bibs

Baby Sweaters

◆ Baby Burping Bibs

Reminder: We also have 12-Bean Soup Mix for \$4.00

If you need any items, you can contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or craszler@aol.com and Ruthann Hallman at 610-434-0314 or hallmangr@hotmail.com.

Volunteers are needed for our Craft projects!

We could use your help if your talents include:

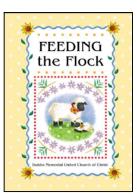
♦ Knitting

- Crocheting
- Sewing

- ♦ Counted Cross Stitching
- ◆ Scrapbooking
- ◆ Gluing & Assembling of Crafts



Women's Group Church Cookbook



Features 350 Recipes

Appetizers & Beverages Soups & Salads Main Dishes Vegetables & Side Dishes Breads & Rolls Desserts Cookies & Candy This & That

Cost: \$12.75

Make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. See Carol Raszler or call her at 610-393-7572.

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.

"Give-Back Nights"

★ Join us on **Tuesday**, **February 26**, **from 11:00 a.m. to Closing at 11:00 p.m. at Chili's located at 815 Grape St. in Whitehall.** From your dinner receipt, 15% will be donated back to St. John's. <u>A</u> <u>voucher is required</u> and can be found on the table in the lounge and in this newsletter.

★ Join us on **Tuesday**, March 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Panera Bread loCated at 2669 MacArthur Rd. in Whitehall. From your dinner receipt, 20% will be donated back to St. John's. <u>A flyer</u> is required and can be found on the table in the lounge and in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about our Give-Back Nights, please **contact Emma Kuczek at 610-769-0808 or Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572**. Stay tuned for more upcoming Give-Back Nights in the next few weeks at different locations.





Thank you to everyone who signed up to usher and read scripture in 2018. Your service has not gone unappreciated!

There is a sheet in the back of the church for you to sign up to usher and read scripture in 2019. You have a choice to usher or read at the 8:15AM or 10:45AM worship services.

Many people have signed up to read scripture but there has not been as much response to sign up to usher. There are many dates in March that have not been filled out. If we do not get some volunteers, it will be necessary to resume making phone calls and sending emails to recruit volunteers.

The good people of St. John's are always up for a good challenge and this is one that you can do and it doesn't require any extra personal time: you will already be in Church! Thank about it....or better yet...pray about it.

Nancy Dougherty, Usher Recruiter Cheryl Weaver, Assistant Volunteer Usher Recruiter

2018 Contribution Statements Available

The statements are on a table in the back of the church. If you are unable to pick up your statements, please call the Church office at 610-264-8421 and it will be mailed to you.

Easter Candy Sale



The Easter Bunny is on his way to St. John's! He's bringing Easter candy for sale again this year. We will be selling semisweet peanut butter and coconut cream eggs for \$10.00/lb. Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 31st. Pick-up will once again be on Palm Sunday, April 14th after both services. Don't miss out on these yummy concoctions! Look for the order form to be posted on the board in the back of the church starting the last week of February.



Lady PEEPS Invites You: "Naturally Healthy and Strong"

Come join us for the next Lady PEEPS Women's Group meeting on **Tuesday**, **March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Fox Hall**. The guest speaker with be our very own **Linda Powell** who will be sharing her knowledge on staying healthy in a natural way. Also joining us by video will be **Mary Root**, a Silver Sneakers

instructor, who will teach us some easy ways to stay strong. Refreshments will be served.

"Have I Got a Story for You!"

Emmy-nominated and best-selling comedian **Chonda Pierce** has been making audiences laugh for more than two decades with her winning combination of fierce wit and southern charm. In this video she takes her comedy to a new level as shares **her thoughts on fairy tales, her up and close and personal view of NASCAR racing, and The Greatest Story Ever Told**. Join the Lady PEEPS for this



delightful evening on **Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in Fox Hall**. Refreshments will be served along with loads of laughter.

The Men's Breakfast



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.

> March's meeting is Saturday, March 2nd at 8:30AM.



BBQ Chicken – "Grab-N-Go"

Saturday, April $13^{\text{th}} - 2:00-5:00\text{PM}$ - Pick up will be in the parking lot in front of the church. It includes ½ BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans and a roll. Cost - \$10.00 per person. Please sign up in back of church if interested. Must pick up during 2:00-5:00PM – April 13^{th} . NO HOLDS. Orders are due by March 31^{st} . Any questions please see Kenda Catalini or call her at 484-358-7453.

It's Time To Fill The Eggs!!!!

We need your help! We had more children attend our egg hunt last year, so that means we need to add more eggs this year! What a great problem to have! Please pick up a dozen (or more) egg cartons, fill them at home with INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED candy (NO NUTS), and return by Sunday, April 7th. Thanks in advance for your help in making this year's egg hunt a huge success! Eggs will be in the parlor area beginning Sunday, March 10th.

Egg Hunt!

Sunday, April 13th 10:30AM - Ages 0-12. It's "Hop"ening soon! Please look for the registration form in this newsletter or save time and register online... <u>https://tinyurl.com/egghunt2019</u>







Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative



May 14, 2019 has been designated as the date for St. John's hosting of the Hunger Initiative meal. What we serve is for us to decide. Planning and converting recipes to serve

100 plus people is quite a challenge and takes many volunteers to make it happen. We will need individuals to: shop for ingredients, prepare ingredients (chop, mix, etc.), cook, set up, serve, run the dishwasher, wash dishes and people willing to help clean up after the meal. Most importantly, we need bakers to prepare desserts!

If you are interested in being a part of this rewarding project please contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or email <u>nancydough@msn.com</u>.

From Our Stewardship and Finance Committee

If you remember from last month's article, we are going to look at the principle of responsibility regarding stewardship. Before we get to far ahead though I want to highlight a few things mentioned last month and perhaps expand a little more about the principle of ownership.

To refresh, GOD is the owner of everything and as the owner GOD has all the rights to everything. This world with all its wonder and all its people were, are and always will be created by GOD. Every task we fulfill, all the fruits of our labor, any wealth we may create are not ours to claim as our own but are GOD's to claim. GOD gives us the ability to produce all things making the fruits GOD's own.

The principle of Responsibility. Even though we don't own anything GOD provides abundantly to each one of us. We've all been given special gifts and talents by GOD. As stewards we are responsible to care for, develop and manage GOD's gifts, people and belongings with GOD's desires and purposes in mind. In order to do this well, it becomes necessary to understand GOD's likes and dislikes, GOD's expectations for us and our gifts and talents. How do we do this? We must take responsibility for developing the personal relationship with GOD that comes through prayer. With prayer we get to know GOD in a deeper more meaningful way, and we can then understand what GOD wants for us and how to use the gifts we've been given to advance GOD's purpose for us and the world.

Imagine giving a gift to someone you love, this gift has always been special to you, rare, like each one of us is to GOD. This loved one accepts it, seems excited and says Thank You. Some time passes and there is never any talk or concern for this gift that you love and want the best for. You wonder how they can ever take care of it, develop it or manage it without asking any questions or understanding the importance it has. You visit and see your gift in the corner, dusty, almost unrecognizable, a shell of what it once was, unable to display its beauty to all who see it. How do you feel?

GOD as owner has rights. We as stewards have responsibilities to our owner. How are we doing at St. John's with this principle of responsibility?

Talk to you next month. Coming up, Principle of Accountability.

Blessings

Gary Madaus Stewardship and Finance Committee Chairperson

Miller Memorial Blood Drive

The next Miller Memorial Blood Drive will be held April 7, 2019. You are eligible only if the last time you gave blood was on or before February 9. Time slots are already filling so please see/call me to sign up. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the blood bank.

Sharon Antrim 610-216-6207



Miller-Keystone Blood Center Our Code – 0872

Homemade Soup - A Great "Comfort Food"

Beef Vegetable Soup is being made on Friday, April 5. Cost is \$7.00 a quart. Anyone willing to help or learn is welcome to come starting at 8:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet for orders is in the back of the sanctuary or you can contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572. Pickup times are that Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. down in Fox Hall or in the lounge after each worship service on Sunday, April 7. <u>Deadline for orders is Sunday</u>, <u>March 24.</u>

Mark your Calendar: Turkey Pot Pie will be made on Friday, June 7.

* * *

It's the Nuts!

Did you know that nuts freeze well? Help us close out this sale by purchasing the following.

Ітем	DESCRIPTION	Соят
Fancy Pecan Halves	cy Pecan Halves Contains more than 19 vitamins & minerals	
	High in antioxidants; helps reduce risk of heart disease	
Giant Whole Cashews	Roasted & gently salted	\$11.00/lb.
	Great source of iron; helps build healthy bones	
Heart Healthy Nut Mix	Raw natural cashews and almonds, sweet dried cranberries,	\$11.00/lb.
	golden raisins, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds	

Please see Carol Raszler before or after worship to make your purchases. Nuts are also available in the church office. Checks are to be made payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

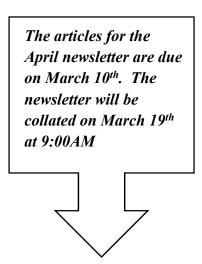
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Funny Cakes & Shoofly Pies are Coming Soon

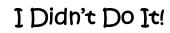
Our next Bake Sale with The Bakery Nook is scheduled for Friday, May 17. We will be taking orders for Funny Cakes and Wet-Bottom Shoofly Pies shortly. Cost is \$10 for a 10" pie. <u>Deadline for orders is</u> <u>Sunday, May 5.</u> Details will be in the April newsletter.

2019 Lehigh Valley SaveAround Books – Last Chance!

We have a few of these money-saving coupon books remaining at a cost of **\$25.00**. The books feature coupons and savings on: fine & casual dining, fast food & carryout, shopping, movies, attractions, etc.—**OVER \$5000 in SaVings**. See either **Tracey Glass or Carol Raszler**. Books are also available in the church office. <u>The last date to purchase these books is March 1.</u>



March 2019 Music Notes





I am talking about the new words to the Doxology that we sing as our offering response. "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" has many different varieties of words. Some congregations still use the one with "him" and "ye". At St. John's, we started using "Praise God" instead of "Praise Him".

In an email to me on February 5, 2018, Pastor Michelle sent me "new words" to the Doxology. Since March 11, 2018, would be the "kick- off" for the new brochure and our Open and Accepting/Affirming status, Pastor Becky and Pastor Michelle thought it might be nice to use the inclusive language during the Doxology. The new line, "Praise Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One", has come from National. I was willing to give it a try and practiced the new words with the congregation the week before we started using it.

The change was met with mixed reviews. Some think it is ok and others do not like the new words at all. I hear people singing different words all the time. Does it matter? I say, "no". Pastor Becky and I both agree that people should do what they are comfortable with. Your church neighbor may sing something different than you. But everyone is singing some form of the Doxology.

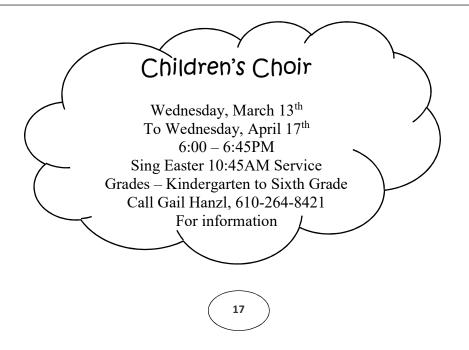
The same applies to the Lord's Prayer. How many variations of that do we hear? Some say "debts", some "trespasses", some "sins". What matters is praying to God.

The words to hymns have been changed and modernized with inclusive language. But if you listen to me sing some of the older hymns, you will hear me sing the "old words". As I'm playing the organ, I'm not looking at the words but I'm looking at the notes.

Sing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" with words that help you praise God.

Musically,

Gaíl



Human Size Games

Sunday, March 10th 12:00 pm - Fox Hall Join us as we enjoy Human Size Games! PAC MAN, HUNGRY HIPPOS, TIC TAC TOE!

You won't want to miss this fun time where YOU are the game pieces! A light lunch will be provided by the youth group. Please RSVP on the board in the back of the sanctuary. Join us!

Middler & Sr Youth Group Camp In!

Join us for a night full of fun and lots of games... and yes youth group... SARDINES! Friday March 8th 6:00 pm to Saturday March 9th 9:00 am. Please eat supper before you come to the church, bring a snack to share! Breakfast will be served!

Confirmation Mission Project

Each year our confirmands pick a mission project to do as a group. This year one of our confirmands had an idea to sell Hershey candy bars to support the church.

A little back story....

The confirmands attend the Fall Annual meeting as a part of confirmation. One of our confirmands Gregory, noticed that the church had a deficit. He brought the idea of selling candy bars to help out the church's deficit to the confirmation class as a possible idea for their mission project. So, in order to give back, and "Be The Church", our confirmands UNANIMOUSLY decided to go with his idea for their mission project.

If you want to support their efforts look for one of them with a Hershey Fundraising kit on Sunday mornings

Way to go Confirmands!

VBS Volunteers needed!

Are you interested in making a huge impact in the lives of children in just one short week? We are getting ready to start planning this year's VBS "To Mars and Beyond!" June 24th-28th 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm (Leader and teen supper provided at 5:00 pm)





Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, March 17th 9:30 am During Faith Formation hour

We are "Lucky" to be able to celebrate our Faith Formation Teachers on St. Patty's Day! A light snack will be served.

Got Prayer!

The KidZ JAM classes and visitors enjoyed a morning of creative prayer stations with the "Be the Church" theme! They explored prayer through drawing, stories, reflection, and jumping!

Mission Moment!



One Great Hour of Sharing

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) special mission offering of the UCC involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing, and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and

organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to OGHS puts you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Your support of OGHS carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert and an envelope to make your donation. This special offering will be received during worship on Sunday, March 24.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of March, donations are needed for the following: **pancake mix, pancake syrup, canned peas, and canned pears.** 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. Special offering envelopes for the food pantry will be placed in the bulletin on Sunday, March 31, for anyone wishing to make a monetary donation.

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

<u>NOTE DATE CHANGES</u>: The remaining dates for St. John's to serve breakfast at Zion's UCC (620 W. Hamilton St., Allentown) are Fridays, March 15 and April 19, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. This ministry provides a hot meal and warm hospitality to the homeless, the working poor, and anyone in need of food. If you are interested in volunteering in this important ministry, please contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or email her at nancydough@msn.com.

<u>Pathways</u>

For this program of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, we will continue to collect adult toiletry items, baby diapers, and baby wipes until the end of February. Pathway's goal is to provide men, women, and families, who are homeless or threatened with homelessness with the services and support that they need. A complete shopping list of items can be found on the table in the coat room outside the sanctuary along with a container to place your donations.



Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

PNEC A **PSEC Joint Mission Trip to Puerto Rico** – We received word that both of the Mission Trips to Puerto Rico in April and May are now filled and registration is closed. Thanks to the many volunteers, along with our own Pastor Dave Quinn and his wife Noemi, who volunteered to go to Puerto Rico to assist in the rebuilding efforts. There is a possibility that PNEC & PSEC could schedule additional trips in the coming year. Be sure to read in this newsletter the "thank you" letters from those who helped organize the trip.

 Φ **Anigos de Guatemala** – A celebration dinner for PNEC's completion of the clinic in Monte Margarita will take place on April 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Jordan UCC. This remote Guatemalan mountain village had initially been about 8 miles from any medical facilities. The community has few vehicles, roads are poor, water is not clean, and many health issues go untreated. After sending a medical team there in 2012, PNEC was determined to partner with the people of Guatemala and build a multi-use facility and clinic. Thanks go to the many volunteers who traveled there to help in the building process and to many of you who made monetary contributions. The new building includes the clinic, a community room, and housing for workers. The people in Monte Margarita will also use it for church meetings, small business conferences, and education. PNEC's partnership will continue as volunteers are now needed to serve on a medical team as well as volunteers who are fluent in Spanish. Donations continue to be accepted at the Conference office.

How did our St. John's Family do?

Recent Outreaches	January	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1615.00	\$1615.00
The Christmas Fund	-0-	\$ 1,022.00 – Final 2018
Whitehall Food Bank	-0-	-0-



HealthCare Ministries

National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can seem like an overwhelming task. If we take a moment to break it all down into simple parts, it turns daunting tasks into manageable habits. In this segment, I will share simple tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics that will help you fit healthy habits into your routine.

Make half of your plate fruits and veggies. Add color to your plate, along with vitamins, minerals and fiber. Experiment with different types including fresh, frozen or canned. Rinse canned vegetables to reduce sodium content; choose canned fruits packed in their own juices, avoid heavy syrups.

Be Active. Ask your doctor about the type of physical activity that may be right for you. Regular physical activity has many health benefits.

Understand food labels. Using these resources can help you shop smarter and fill your pantry with healthy items that are low in sodium, unhealthy fats and added sugar.

Keep snacks handy and healthy. Just because we call something a snack, doesn't mean it has to be a poor choice. Healthy snacks can sustain energy throughout the day. Having healthy snacks available will prevent you from reaching for empty calorie foods to satisfy midafternoon hunger. A few healthy snack ideas include: fruit with peanut butter or cottage cheese, raw veggies with hummus, or a hard-boiled egg.

Practice food safety. Prevent food borne illness with proper food safety. Practice regular hand washing, separate raw and ready-to-eat foods, cook all food to the appropriate temperatures and refrigerate food promptly. Food safety information can be found at www.homefoodsafety.org

Quench your thirst with water. Avoid beverages with added sugar. Stay hydrated with water or unsweetened tea. Add flavor to water with lemon wedges, cucumbers, or frozen berries.

Make meal time family time and avoid distractions. Set a regular mealtime and eat with your family as often as you can. Avoid cell phones, TV, and other distractions during the meal. Share news about your day and plans for the week. Dedicate time to enjoy your family and the meal.

Healthy habits can be incorporated into any lifestyle. Small changes make a big impact. Happy National Nutrition Month!

Submitted by Amy Romberger, RD, LDN

Information adapted from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <u>https://www.eatright.org/food/resources/national-nutrition-month/nnm-handouts-and-tipsheets-for-families-and-communities</u>

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, ages, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances.

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

Online Giving -

Do you want to give an offering to help with missions, Capital Campaign, current expenses, etc. and do not have the cash available? Are you on vacation and want to contribute towards the church? Look no further! Simply scan the QR code where it will take you to our online giving website!



If you would like to make a contribution, we offer electronic giving and credit card options for our members and friends of the church.

Go to our website **stjohnsuccfullerton.org**

Click on contribution

Click on "Make a contribution"

Create your online profile



We appreciate you helping us to be good stewards of our resources.

Your contributions allow us to continue God's work in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

"This Week in PNEC" Mailing

An email goes out every week from Penn Northeast Conference about church events in the area, seminars to attend, news about Pastors in the area, mission information, etc. It is very informative and it will keep you in touch with area church happenings. If you would like to receive the PNEC mailing please contact Susan Kuder <u>stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com</u> or call the church office.



Plan for 2019 Tax Return?

Have you ever thought you would like to increase giving to St. John's, but could not fit it into your budget?

While most of us are still struggling with 2018 tax returns, it may be helpful to start planning for 2019 returns.

While everyone should do this planning, it is especially true for individuals over 70 ½ who must take a "Required Minimum Distribution" from an IRA account. With proper planning, directing some of that RMD to the church can be beneficial to you personally, as well as to St. John's. It can be a way of increasing contributions while, at the same time, not costing anything additional.

There is logic behind this: For anyone who is not able to itemize deductions under the new tax law there would be no credit for contributions. One alternative is to make contributions <u>directly</u> from a 401k to St. John's. By doing this reportable and taxable 401k income from the IRA is reduced—hence the tax savings.

Consider, for example, contributing \$2,000 as a direct payment from the financial institution to the church. (It would not have to be lump-sum. Any timeline or increment of contributions could be chosen.) Envelope contributions of \$2,000 may not be tax deductible if thresholds for itemizing are not met. On the other hand, a direct IRA distribution would reduce reportable income by that amount and could result in a \$500 tax savings (assuming a 25% tax bracket).

Therefore, these "savings" can be used to increase donations to the church with a net, "no cost" to you. While this may not work for everyone, prudent financial planning requires that one look at all options. And, this is one that may be worth considering.

For additional information, you may contact Tom Moyer or John Viglione. But, as with any such decisions, it is always recommended that these be made with the advice of a financial advisor.



Sponsor Flowers and Bulletins

The following dates are available to sponsor **Altar Flowers:**

March 3, 10, 24	April 7, 14
May 26	June 2, 16, 23, 30
August 4, 25	September 8, 15, 22
October 27	
NI 1 10 04	D 1 0 15 00

November 10, 24 December 8, 15, 29

The following dates are available to sponsor **Bulletins:**

March 3, 10, 24, 31	April 28
May 19	June 2, 30
July 21, 28	August 4, 18, 25
September 29	October 13, 20, 27
November 17	December 15
•	son at 610-264-1210 if ne above dates. Cost is \$20.00 for each vase

and \$30.00 for piano arrangement.

	EASTHER EGG HIUINT					EASTER EGG HU April 13th @ 10:304 ages 0-12 12:00 pm Noon Adult "Golden Egg H REGISTRATION FO St. John's UCC, Fulle 575 Grape St., Whitehall, Pa 610-264-8421		30AM on g Hur FOR ullerta	I nt" M on			as be	forget en sp St. ase re	your c otted h John's	camera! hopping s Field o registra	<i>Thine</i> *** A large white of around in the ar of Dreams!!! tion to the chur ch 31st*	ea of	
CHILD'S N	AME:									AGE	:			GRA	DE: _			
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I agree that	at St.Joh ADUL	n's UCC \langle	of Fulle	rton may u pub	ise such licity, il I hav	photo lustra /e rea	ograp ition, d and	hs of a adver unde	me for tising, : rstand	any la and W the ab	wful 'eb co ove:	purpontent	ose, in	cludin	g for e	xample s	electronically. such purposes as	i
Please mark 8:1	By	In Memory of	By	In Honor of	Total Amount Enclosed	Red	Pink			Purple	Pink	Red	-		Quantity	Phone Number:	To order Easter Flowers, please to the church office by April 7 th in the offering plate. Name:	
Easter Sunday – April 21, 2019 mark which service you would like to pick up your flowers 8:15AM 10:45AM								7" Azaleas - (\$9.00)	6 1/2" Daffodils - yellow (\$6.50)				6" Tulips – six bulbs (\$6.50)	6" White Asiatic Lily - \$9.00			please complete the form and return with your payment ril 7 th . You can also place the form and your payment	Easter Flower Order Form - 2019
.9 pick up your flowers AM															Total cost		our payment our payment	orm - 2019
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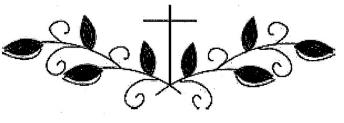
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St. John's UCC, Fullerton 2019 Consistory Covenant

I am honored and blessed to be called to be a leader at St. John's. I will make every effort to ~

- 1. Pray for the church, its leaders and people
- 2. Participate in worship, attend as many consistory meetings and church activities as possible
- 3. Be open minded to the thoughts of others, yet not afraid to speak my own mind
- 4. Keep the commitments I make within consistory and on any committee I serve
- 5. Be willing to help and support each other and membership
- 6. Have a positive attitude
- 7. Read Constitution and Bylaws

N + IA knl



Approved at January 15, 2019 Consistory meeting

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

March 3 rd Scripture: Luk Hymns: *We Have Come at Christ's C		oly Ground	Transfiguration *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
8:15AM Elders: Robert Dougherty, Connie Vig	lione		
Ushers: Colleen Kulhamer, Ted Hess, S Judy Miranda, Nancy Dougherty	haron Antrim, Ann	e Welsh, Joe	Trippett, Barbara Holden,
Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim	Acolyte: Alex Br	yant	STARs Tech: Joe Trippett
<u>10:45AM</u> Elders: Marion DeMilio, Peter Mohr Ushers: Dewey Yeatts, Sharon Czekne	r, Bob Czekner, Suc	e Weldner, Ei	ireann Hunsicker, Colleen Kulhamer,
Brian Fisher Acolyte: Parker Christman	STARs Tech: Do	nnaLee Yeatt	ts Children's Message: Sharon Czekner

March 6thAsh Wednesday Service - 7:00PMMatthew 6:1-6, 16-21Hymns: *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*Savior, When in Dust to You*Abide with Me

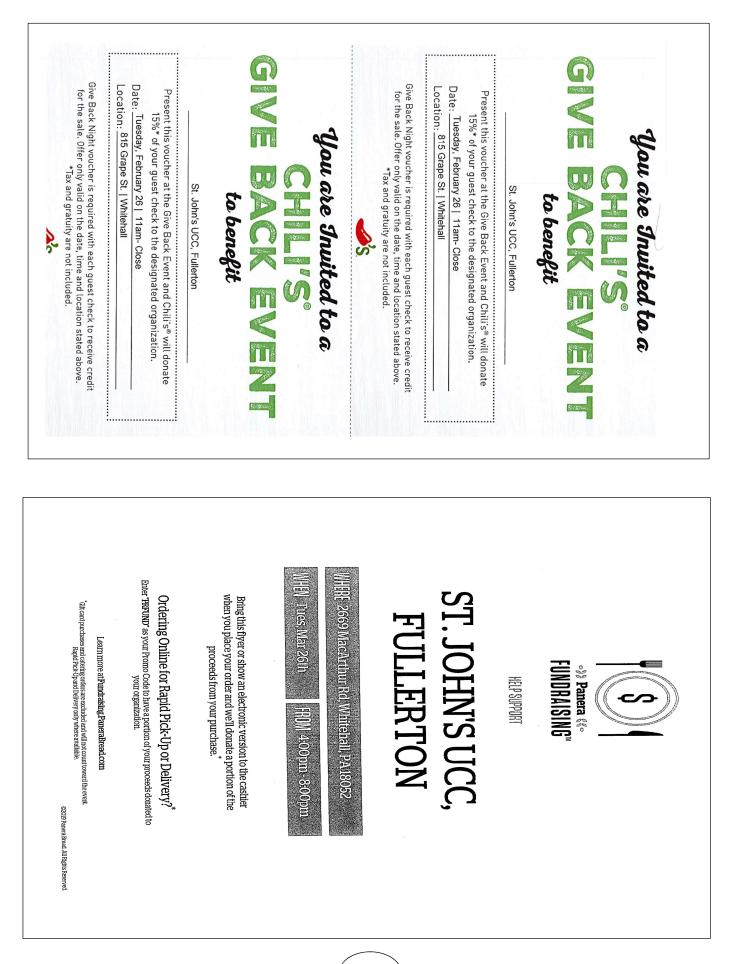
March 10 th Hymns:		First Sund Dimensions *Forty Days and F e Me, O My Great Redeemer	lay in Lent orty Nights
		nne Welsh, Emily Dimmick Acolyte: Andrew Deutsch	STARs Tech: Susan Rarich
	ler: Autumn Harper essage: Pastor Michelle	Acolyte: Karly Myers	STARs Tech: Corrina Schneck

March 17 th	Scripture: Luke 13:31-35	Second Sur	nday in Lent
Hymns: *Where Cr	oss the Crowded Ways of L	ife *God Loved the World	*On Eagle's Wings
<u>8:15AM</u>			
Ushers: Anne Welsh	n, Judy Miranda, LeDonne V	Vagstaff	
Scripture Reader: An	nne Welsh Acolyte: Ty	yler McNicholas STARs Te	ch: Joe Trippett
<u>10:45AM</u>			
Scripture Reader: Jo	by Gravely Acolyte: K	Kayleigh Fisher STARs Te	ch: Nicole McWilliams
Children's Message:	Pastor Becky		

March 24 th	Scripture:	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Third Sunday in Lent
Hymns: *(ather Us In	*One Bread, One Body	*In Christ There Is No East or West
<u>8:15AM</u>			
Ushers: Judy	Miranda, Janet Eb	ert, Jim Ebert, Carole O'O	Connell
Scripture Read	er: Connie Viglio	ne Acolyte: Tor	mmy Saeger
STARs Tech:	Susan Rarich		
<u>10:45AM</u>			
Ushers: Diana	Beck, Ginny Bro	kenshire	
Scripture Read	er: Tyler Shanky	weiler Acolyte: Ky	rah Gedroic
STARs Tech:	DonnaLee Yeatts	Children's M	lessage: Sharon Czekner

March 31 st Scripture: Luke 15:1-3	3, 11b-32 Fourth	n Sunday in Lent
Hymns: *God of the Sparrow God o	f the Whale *O God, How	We Have Wandered
*Amaz	ing Grace, How Sweet the So	ound
<u>8:15AM</u>		
Ushers: Judy Miranda, Kim Saeger, 7	Tommy Saeger	
Scripture Reader: Janet Ebert	Acolyte: Jillian Sommer	STARs Tech: Tom Moyer
<u>10:45AM</u>		
Scripture Reader: Rev. David Mohr	Acolyte: Zoey Gedroic	STARs Tech: Donald Schneck
Children's Message – Pastor Michelle	2	





Staff Rev. Dr. Becky J. Beckwith, Senior Pastor stjohnsucc.pastor@rcn.com

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. Emilie Moyer, Pianist

Mrs. Susan Kuder Office Administrator <u>stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com</u>

Mrs. Susan Weldner, Treasurer <u>sbweldner@gmail.com</u>

Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Emilie Moyer, Financial Secretaries <u>thomasmoyer@rcn.com</u>

Mr. Donald Schneck, I.T. Tech eedon@ptd.net

Mr. Gary Weaver, Coordinating Custodian gary.weaver53@aol.com

Mr. Dan Riedy – Custodian

Mr. Robert Czekner – Custodian

Mrs. Michelle Gutekunst – EZ Worship Tech

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

Two Worship Services – 8:15AM and 10:45AM Faith Formation Classes – 9:30AM

Consistory

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

Committees & Chairpersons

- o Altar Guild Kim Hillegass & Nancy Dougherty
- Altar Flowers Sally Gibson 610-264-1210
- Bowling & Softball Donald Schneck 610-216-2707
- o Christian Education Karen Stoisits
- Church Usage Ted Hess
- o Community Celebrates Jinny Hess 610-821-8856
- Crafters Group Ruthann Hallman 610-434-0314
 & Carol Raszler 610-965-4299
- o Evangelism Kenda Catalini 484-358-7453
- "Fun" Raising Committee Tracey Glass (610-432-4997)
- Healthcare Marion DeMilio 610-797-9652
- Interior Connie Viglione 610-398-9663
- Mission Robert Dougherty
- o Personnel Robert Scheirer
- Prayer Chain Mary Jane Ott 610-434-9732
- o Property Charlie Apple 610-928-7193
- o 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
- o Youth Ministry Kenda Catalini

St. John's UCC, Fullerton Website www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org