



St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
Church Office: 610-264-8421

November 2020



Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

~ Matthew 7:7 (KJV)



As I write this article, your Consistory President is contacting the people Consistory have selected to serve on St. John's Pastoral Search Committee. Their task of appointing a Search Committee was made both easier and harder by all of you – they asked, and you gave them a large number of excellent candidates to choose from, but the fact that all the nominees were very well qualified made narrowing down the list a challenge!

Considering the wisdom shared by PNEC Minister Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates – seeking to appoint a group that both represents the congregation (younger and older, new and long-time members, male and female, etc.) and will be trusted as they conduct the search on your behalf – Consistory also attended to the Spirit before they made their final decision, which was unanimous!

So what happens now? St. John's Search Committee will be officially installed during an upcoming service of worship. Then, a representative from the PNEC Search and Call Team will orient the Search Committee to the work before them. They will begin preparing St. John's "Local Church Profile," which will describe our church to potential candidates with answers to the questions "Who are we?" "Who are our neighbors?" and "Who is God calling us to become?" that will be formulated with input from all members of our congregation.

This process will likely take several months; the Search Committee will keep the congregation apprised of their progress.

"Seek and ye shall find," Jesus said. Let us trust in that promise, and hold in our prayers both the Search Committee as they begin seeking St. John's next Senior Pastor AND that very pastor who is out there somewhere, seeking the place where God is calling them to go and serve with energy, imagination, faithfulness and love.

Be God's,
Pastor Bonnie

We Have Our Search Committee!!

Thank you to Kenda Catalini, Sharon Czekner, Wendy Fox, Melissa Mendiolina, Pete Mohr, Susan Rarich and Paul Raszler who have agreed to serve as members of St. John's Fullerton Pastoral Search Committee! Look for Search Committee articles in upcoming newsletters.



Church News

Thanksgiving Sunday – November 22nd



Is there really anything to be thankful for this year?? You may be surprised at what we can learn about thanks-giving in 2020! Join us for worship via Zoom at 9:30AM on Sunday, November 22nd to sing some favorite Thanksgiving hymns and discover what true thanksgiving is all about. (Pumpkin muffins and hot cider - or coffee - optional!)

Advent Begins on Sunday, November 29th!

Psalm 126 opens with the line: *“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”* What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, and the shepherds were all dreamers. Each one of them received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world.

This year during Advent, the church year’s “now, but not yet” season of waiting, we will step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray that they will shape our reality.

If you dream of a deeper connection with God, if you dream of a just and peace-filled world, if you dream of comfort and joy, and even if it feels like your dreams have been crushed, join us this Advent as we dream together, alongside prophets and angels. Join us as we seek and sow God’s dreams for our world.

DIY Advent Wreath

All it takes is five candles! Any kind, any size, although you may want to choose one candle that is a bit taller than the others for the center of your “wreath” to serve as a Christ Candle to light on Christmas Day.

The typical placement of the four Advent Candles in a circle symbolizes God’s love which has no beginning and no end. Greens, which represent eternal life since they stay green year-round, are optional - be creative!

If you’re willing to share a photo of your wreath, we’d love to post it on our website.



We will include an Advent Candle Lighting liturgy each Sunday beginning November 29th during Zoom worship - join us in anticipating the coming of Christmas!

Gift Card Bingo Cancelled



The Gift card bingo scheduled for November 13th has been cancelled and there is no rescheduled date as of now.

If you bought tickets for the Bingo, please call the church office 610-264-8421 for a refund.

Church Reopening Task Force Recommendation



Consistory approved the Church Reopening Task Force's recommendation, that due to the increasing number of COVID cases in our area, the earliest we might have in-person worship is the beginning of December. The Task Force continues to meet and monitor the situation. You can always call the church office and press extension #5 for church building updates.

Help the Building Re-opening Task Force!

When we re-open the church building for in-person worship (no date yet set), worship will look very different than it did last January. There will be no singing, no choirs, no responsive readings, no socialization, and masks and physical distancing will be required at all times. The biggest difference will be the limitation on the number of people we will be able to safely seat in our sanctuary.



Given the fact that Zoom worship and occasional outdoor worship opportunities will continue to be offered even when we begin indoor, in-person worship, please help us with our planning by answering this simple "yes or no" question:

Will you plan to attend indoor, in-person worship if it is available in the next few months?

Please let the church office know, or share your response via this link:

<https://forms.gle/d6sMUUATmVyFeYCKA>

Of course, you may change your mind at any time, but having a rough idea of how many people we might expect for in-person worship will help us design a reservation plan that will provide opportunities for everyone who wants to attend to do so.

Questions? Contact any member of the Building Re-opening Task Force: Marion DeMilio (Chair), Connie Viglione, Karen Stoitsits, Brian Fisher, Michelle Gutekunst, Pete Mohr, Tom Moyer and Pastor Bonnie.

Upcoming Women's Group Get Together

Lady PEEPS Women's Group is going to the dogs on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00PM. The program is called Faith, Hope, Love: Raising a Seeing Eye Dog.

Our guest speaker is Pastor Bonnie and her puppy, Nelson. There will be other guests there as well. The program will probably be in the Field of Dreams. So wear a coat, bring a chair and blanket to keep warm, wear a mask and remember to social distance.

Come and learn about Pastor Bonnie's journey in training these special dogs. See you there!

November Birthdays

- November 1 *Carol Seagreaves
*Martha Ann Strauss *Alan Weiner
- November 2 *Tyler Stocker
*Karen Stoitsits
- November 3 *Jessica Bruder
- November 4 *James Ebert
*Gayle Mihulec *Maci Pollitt
- November 5 *Amanda Black
*Nicole Headman *Ruth Minnich
*Jean Litzenberger
- November 6 *Shari Bruder
*Cole Buskirk *Dona Carr
- November 7 *Roxanne DeMilio
*Colleen Kulhamer *Lissa Wuchter
- November 8 *Charisma Christman
*Charlene Hoff *Edward Sommers
*Connie Viglione
- November 9 *Linda Apple
*Lori Yocco *Candra Zellner
*Joelene Weaver
- November 10 *Sharon Antrim
- November 11 *Robert Bold
*Maureen Weaver
- November 12 *Zander Rarich
- November 15 *Adrienne Kiesbar
*Jack Ohl
- November 16 *Carolann Adams
*Jeffrey Phillips *Gianna Miller
*Kyle Szoke
- November 17 *Beth Neitz
- November 18 *Kristy Hentz
*Judith Miranda *Thomas Teets
*Jean VanFleet
- November 19 *Sophia Nailor
- November 20 *Amy Brinker
*Gracie Brosious *John McWilliams
- November 21 *Rachel Eichman
*Kathy Roth
- November 22 *Kendra Fox
- November 23 *Tyler Brown
*Ronald Glass *Tracey Glass
*Brianna Hentz *Andrew Kulhamer

November Birthdays

- November 25 *Richard Dickey, Jr.
*Donald Downing *Carol Raszler
*Mia Venanzi
- November 26 *Paul Long
*Lauren Schutts
- November 27 *Raynold Ambearle
*Tyler McNicholas *Jairus Miller
*Lois Stirba *Amanda Volkert
- November 28 *Aiden Sommer
*Susan Weldner
- November 29 *Alyssa Lopez
*Sara Jane Siegfried
*Colleen Thomas
- November 30 *Delores Morgan
*Arline Yoder



No Filling Sale this Year

It is with great sadness that I announce that the annual filling sale held in November will not be happening due to the unavailability of the church kitchen because of the Covid 19.

FYI

We are so sorry that you will not be able to purchase your holiday filling from us. We hope and pray that 2021 will be different and we will be able to again be part of your holiday dinners.

Cheryl Weaver, FunRaising Chairperson

November Anniversaries

November 3	Julie & Conrad Beck – 36 years
November 6	Joanne & William Wasley, Jr. – 38 years
November 9	Linda & Thomas Germuga – 52 years Tara & Craig Bryant – 18 years Lori & Gregory Yocco – 35 years
November 11	Dee & Randy Schlenker – 20 years Debra & William Hausman – 25 years
November 18	Becky & Bob Beckwith – 48 years
November 19	Emilie & Thomas Moyer – 60 years
November 23	Lori & William Fink – 12 years
November 24	Donna & Matthew Rice – 41 years
November 27	Linda & Stanley Luckenbill – 51 years Lynn & Donald Miller, Jr. – 44 years

Wedding ~

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Irving and Kevin Weidner who were married on October 10th at The American Club.

Baptism ~

Blayke Elaine Jordan was baptized on October 4th. Blayke is the daughter of Kristin and Michael Jordan. She has an older brother, Chase and a sister, Aubree.

Deaths ~

Anna Walbert died on September 19th. Her service celebrating her life was held on September 24th. She is survived by sons Ronald and Edward and daughter Judy and grandchildren and greatgrandchildren

Lucille Schock died on September 24th. Her service was held on September 30th. Lucille has daughters, Cindy, Donna, Dae, Gena and Kelly and grandchildren and great grandchildren.



I want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls I received for my birthday. It was one of the best birthdays I have had.

I also got a bouquet of hot air balloons from my daughter-in-law who was in Pennsylvania from Florida – another big surprise. She and I talked on Facetime where I could see her which was wonderful.

Another thing I received was a big birthday cake from my daughter which I shared with the people on my floor. Thank you again to everyone for the my great day!!

From Emma Kuczek Repp

Newsletter Deadline

In order to save on postage, paper and time, you will be receiving the December/January newsletter in the end of November. This will include all activities for December and half of January.

You will be receiving the January/February newsletter in the middle of January and it will include the second half of January and all of February activities. *The articles for the December 2020/January 2021 newsletter are due on November 15th. The articles for the January/February 2021 newsletter are due on January 10th.*



All Saints Day

All Saints Day will be celebrated on November 1st at our 9:30AM Zoom worship service. At the end of the service we will light a candle for those lives we celebrated this past year. We will celebrate the lives of the following friends and members of St. John's.

Idella Dickey	Craig Merkel, Sr.
Brenda Dilley	William Miller, Sr.
Walter Ebling	Carol (Ritter) Myers
Annamae Folk	Louise Owen
Ruth Gaugler	Virginia Owens
Louise Hoch	June Pope
Harry Houser	D. Jean Roberts
Louise Houser	Lucille Schock
Muriel Kloiber	Renee Spielman
Todd Kresge	Anna Walbert
Fern Kuhns	Robert Weaver

Nominating Committee

We are grateful for those who are completing their 3-year term and who have served on the 2021 Nominating Committee. These positive and spiritual individuals will continue to keep our congregation alive and healthy. They include: Colleen Kulhamer, Pete Mohr, Dewey Yeatts, Ted Hess and youth deacon Brandon Deutsch. We thank these individuals for their leadership.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following individual's names to Consistory for their approval at the October Consistory meeting: Elder: Gary Madaus; Deacons: Janet Ebert, Brenda Pascoe, Margaret Young, and youth deacon, Kayleigh Fisher. The Consistory unanimously approved these individuals and will recommend them to the congregation for their approval at the November Congregational meeting.

St. John's UCC, Fullerton Congregational Meeting November 22, 2020

Immediately following the 9:30AM "Zoom" worship we will have our annual Congregational Meeting. This meeting takes place in order for us to examine the 2021 budget and to vote on it. We also vote on 3 Deacons, 1 Youth Deacon and an Elder for our Consistory, as well as some proposed amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws.

You will soon be receiving a letter with the 2021 Budget, a list of the Consistory candidates and proposed Constitution and bylaw changes. If you have any questions about the budget, please speak with a member of St John's Stewardship & Finance Committee. Advance questions enable the individual to get answers and those questions will also help our budget presenter to know what areas to clarify.

Please put this important date on your calendar and plan to be part of these important decisions of your church. We need 50 people to constitute a quorum in order to approve Consistory nominees, the 2021 budget and the proposed By-law changes.



2020 Confirmands

Congratulations to the following youth who were confirmed at St. John's UCC, Fullerton's Field of Dreams on October 18th at 3:00PM. We wish them many blessings on their continued journey!

**Andrew Bryant*

**Andrew Deutsch*

**Emily Dimmick*

**Kayleigh Fisher*

**Tyler McNicholas*

**Bailee Neitz*

**Tommy Saeger*

**Steven Schlenker*

**Jillian Sommer*



Weis and Giant Cards Available!

"Yes - you can still get Weis and Giant cards at St. John's! You get the full value of the card to use for your grocery purchases; St. John's receives 5% of the sales - it's a win-win fundraiser!

Weis and Giant cards make great Christmas gifts as well. Cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100 are available. Contact the church office to arrange a pick-up. (610-264-8421)

Reminder:
Daylight Saving Time
Ends on November 1



November 2020 Music Notes



Thank you to all of you who have shared favorable comments with me about “Tuesday Music with Gail”. I appreciate all of your kind words. I have been playing hymns that are some of my favorites and also some of yours. I usually play them straight out of the hymn book and sometimes solo out the melody or add an extra ending. But for November 3rd's music, I will be playing four separate hymns that have been arranged into preludes. All four are familiar tunes and, as you listen, you can follow the hymn tune and sing along.

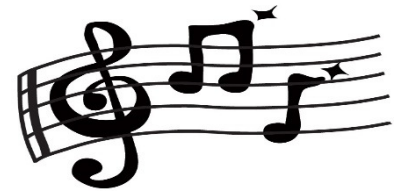
I am here to serve you. Please let me know if you have a favorite hymn or tune that you have not heard yet. I will do my best to play it. Because the video is posted on You Tube and Face Book, I must make certain we have permission to use what I am playing. We use two different copyright license companies and it take some time to check out both of them with the music I would like to play. This applies to all of the music that is recorded here.

I never thought I would be recording as much music as I have been. I am very grateful to all of the soloists who have led the hymns, those who have sung solos, and those who have played musical instruments. What an amazing range of talent we have at St. John's. Thank you, each and every one, and thank you to the congregation for supporting the music at St. John's.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Musically,

Gail



From the FunRaising Committee

Attention Amazon Shoppers!

Attention all our Amazon shoppers! St. John's UCC, Fullerton is now signed up for the Amazon Smiles Program.

How this program works is when you sign into Amazon to shop you need to sign into Amazon Smiles and designate St. John's as your charity of choice. Every time you shop Amazon a portion of your purchase goes back to the charity of your choice, which of course is St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

This is just another way for you to support your church while you are doing shopping that you would have anyway. Happy Shopping!

Nut & Fruit Sale Update!

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for the Nut and Fruit Sale.

The anticipated time of arrival should be by the middle to end of November. We will be in touch with you when the products arrive to arrange either a drive-by pick-up or delivery.



For those of you who missed out on this opportunity, we may have a few extra items to sell from the assortment: deluxe mixed nuts (no peanuts), pecan halves, giant cashews, healthy mix, tropical blend, and mixed chocolate cranberries. Cost is \$11.00 for 1 lb. bags. **Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at crazler@aol.com.**

Do Your Holiday Shopping Early!

Looking for household furnishings for the holidays? We've got Christmas and Fall t-towels, table runners, stocking stuffers, cross-stitch finger-tip towels, stockings, wine totes, coasters, Santas, angels, ornaments, snowmen, and more!



Have a new baby or children in the family? We've got cross-stitch and cloth baby bibs, knitted baby sweaters, burping cloths, tooth fairy pillows, boo boo bunnies, quilt blankets, American Girl doll sweaters, and more!

Need birthday or thank-you gifts? We've got wine totes, wine coasters, cork hot plates, table runners, cross-stitch finger-tip towels and bread cloths, kitchen towels, potholders, dishcloths, scrubbies, friendship bunnies, crocheted hangers, church cookbooks, 12-bean soup mix, and more!

Something New: We've got casserole totes and travel jewelry cases.

If you need a specific item, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at crazler@aol.com

Mission Moment!

“Operation Santa Mitten Tree Project

The Mission Committee is happy to announce that we are again having our Mitten Tree Project for the Christmas season. Due to the uncertainty of when the church will be open or how the charities will be operating, we will be conducting this event in a different way.



We are not collecting gifts this year. Instead, we are encouraging everyone to give a donation to Phoebe Ministries and Valley Youth House. From your funds, gifts will be purchased by the staff at both locations and delivered to their clients and residents.



Phoebe Ministries – Founded in 1903 and affiliated with the UCC, Phoebe Ministries is a multi-facility organization specializing in healthcare, housing and support services to **seniors**. It is guided by its mission to provide compassionate care to residents of its community regardless of their ability to pay.



Valley Youth House – It began in 1973 as a single shelter in the Lehigh Valley for homeless young people and has grown to over 250 residential sites throughout Pennsylvania. Its mission is to help all **youth**, the most vulnerable, those who have been abused, ran away, or are homeless. Valley Youth House helps them build a healthy and independent future.

Here's How You Can Help Spread Christmas Cheer:

Send in your donation payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Be sure to specify Phoebe or VYH or both in the memo section. Deadline to receive your contribution is Sunday, November 29th.

Mission Moment - Continued

Whitehall Food Pantry

Enclosed with this newsletter is a **special offering envelope for the Whitehall Food Pantry** in order for you to make a monetary donation. **Please send your contribution into the church office no later than November 30.** We are also in need of **150 cans of fruit cocktail** for the holiday season. Contact **Bill Meckes** at 610-769-5194 or email at billmeck@gmail.com or **Bob Dougherty** at 610-760-8361.

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry will again take place at Zion UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown from November 2020 to April 2021 from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. This ministry is to provide breakfasts for the homeless, working poor, or anyone in need of food. Due to the pandemic, no meals will be served inside the church. Volunteers will place meals in containers—it will be a “grab and go” setup where clients pick up meals at Zion’s back door. Schedules are currently being formed. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact **Nancy Dougherty** at 610-760-8361 or at nancydough@msn.com.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

✝ Reminder: **Deadline to receive donations for Neighbors in Need and the CROP Walk is Saturday, October 31.**

✝ We continue to receive donations all year long for **Our Churches Wider Mission.**

✝ The **Mask Ministry** is an ongoing project. Masks are available for everyday use as well as masks for the Fall and Christmas holiday—while the supply lasts and on a first come, first served basis. Contact **Carol Raszler** at 610-393-7572.

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