



St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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Easter Can Be Wherever You Are!

I remember the morning in January 2015 when I first saw the place known as "the Garden Tomb" just outside the walls of the "Old City" of Jerusalem. The unexpected blessing of a Holy Land trip with my mom transformed my life and ministry. As we approached this beautiful garden site, one could easily imagine going to the tomb on the third day and finding the stone rolled away. Unlike the other traditionally recognized site where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher now stands, this site was discovered about 200 years ago as historians and archeologists looked for Golgotha and garden tomb possibilities outside the city walls.



Where the actual site may be is not as significant to me as the power of the resurrection experience for those who followed Jesus... for me. I became open that day to the possibility that morning that no matter where I was on my life journey, the risen Christ could meet me. I was welcome in this garden. I went inside the tomb and found the place empty, just as our faith boldly proclaims. I was one who would hear the words, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." (Mark 16:6)

It would be just 3 months later that I would be unanimously approved for ministry in the UCC, with the support and love of my new faith home, Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, sponsoring me as a candidate for ministry. My calling, gifts and abilities would be



affirmed in a new denomination, with God's love leading the way forward. Would it be different? Absolutely!

Would there be adjustments from what I knew? Of course. Could a new way of being the Church be as life transforming? Without a doubt!

All of us are walking in faith in days of challenge and struggle. We don't know what the next steps will hold for us or how we will experience what we have long cherished. The truth is, it was different for the followers of Jesus on that resurrection morning as well, just as it is for us today. How they experienced Jesus changed. How they would talk about their faith took on new power. How they shared their experience and welcomed others would soon turn the world upside down.

What's next for us as St. John's UCC, Fullerton? I believe God is using this death and resurrection time of our pandemic life to transform us. All of the best of who St. John's has always been we will carry forward with us. Other ways of being and doing will be refashioned and reframed. With God's help, we will be those who experience the power of the resurrection in our own lives and in this great community of faith.

The hymn penned what the heart sings with hope and triumph. "You ask me how I know he lives. He lives within my heart!" Experience for yourself this Holy Week the hope of Easter as we continue our journey down the road to the empty tomb. As our beloved Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith recently reminded us, "Easter can be wherever you are!"

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis
Senior Pastor



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Reopening Task Force - March 7 COVID Endemic Stage Recommendations

"New Phase, New Chapter, New Hope"

We have all endured so much! The Reopening Task Force remains grateful for everyone at St. John's UCC, Fullerton, for all the ways you have walked with each other to help us all journey in safety and health to the best of our ability over the last two years and 3 months. We are grateful for all those who were able who choose to get vaccinated and boosted. We are committed to doing all we can for the health and safety of our community, especially the most vulnerable.

The Task Force continues to meet and evaluate local conditions in hospitals, death rates and transmission rates for the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. We take the CDC recommendations seriously and also look to local area conditions. On March 7, the Reopening Task Force met to hear reports on our community status and make additional recommendations to the Consistory for their consideration. The Consistory has voted to approve the following recommendations:

For those who are vaccinated against COVID-19

Wearing a mask inside the buildings at St. John's will now be optional. We understand that if vaccinated, you may still not be comfortable being present and unmasked in public settings. The choice is yours whether or not to wear a mask if you are vaccinated. We want you to feel assured in our community support of your choice to unmask or remain masked for your peace of mind.

For those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19

We recommend wearing an N95/KN95 mask (which are available at the church) and continuing to remain in your family groups while on church premises. We recognize that while a personal choice to be masked or not in many areas of our public life, the church community is one where we have many persons with pre-existing health conditions which increase their risk as well as children who cannot yet be vaccinated. We ask everyone to do their part for the well-being of the community, even if we feel inconvenienced.

Singing - Choir members sitting together are asked to remain masked while singing. Choir members who are vaccinated may choose to be seated with family members and unmasked/masked, then come forward for anthem singing and wear a mask.

Singing - Congregational singing while remaining socially distanced is safest. Close proximity while singing contributes to transmission of particulates. If you like to sing, please consider wearing a mask during those portions of worship.

Continuing Steps to Support Connection

The best way to continue to drive down and maintain low rates of community transmission and protect each other, our families and the most vulnerable, is to get vaccinated and boosted if possible.

Providing for participation in worship services and other meetings by livestream has been a tremendous support and connection for the congregation and extended families. We recommend continuation of these communication methods from now on as an outreach to any who cannot or choose not to attend on site, and to share our worship experience with others who cannot participate on a Sunday morning, those who may be ill or otherwise homebound.

Providing Zoom for participation in administrative ministry and program ministry gatherings will continue for any who need it. All administrative meetings will have a Zoom option. Where possible or an expressed need is shared, our program ministry gatherings will have a Zoom option for participation as well.

While we are all ready to be present with each other unmasked and “back to normal,” we continue to encourage respecting everyone’s personal space and comfort level by safely distancing and honoring each others’ choices in being masked/unmasked for those who are vaccinated.

We want to enter this new phase of this pandemic experience with a new chapter and new hope. We encourage everyone to “hold on to your masks” and not discard them entirely yet, should conditions change and a return to other mitigation factors be needed. The Reopening Task Force will continue to meet each month and make

recommendations to the Consistory for updates in our safe return to activities at St. John’s UCC. We will post the recommendations approved by the Consistory on our website, Stjohnsuccfullerton.org, and by direct email message update and direct mail to the congregation who do not utilize electronic formats.

As always, we invite all to participate on site or online for our weekly worship and study opportunities. We welcome family and friends to join us from wherever they may be across the country. Thank you for your continuing faith and cooperation in supporting our whole community.

Yours in grace and hope,

Rev. Steve Davis
Senior Pastor

The Consistory Leadership
Brian Fisher, President

The Re-opening
Task Force



April Music Notes

Easter sunrise services, often coupled with an early morning breakfast, have been an American tradition since the 1700s. The Moravian Church Easter sunrise service held annually since 1772 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has grown to be one of the largest Easter sunrise services held in the country.

The earliest recorded sunrise service was held in 1732 in Germany.

In 1937, more than 35,000 braved the cold weather to attend the Easter sunrise service near Lawton, Oklahoma.

Like Christmas Eve services that are often held at midnight in churches across the country on December 24, church congregations have gathered for Easter sunrise services before dawn on Easter morning – often at beaches, parks, atop hills and even in cemeteries.

Congregations are often positioned so that they are facing the east and will see the sun rising during the service.

St. John's Easter sunrise service will take place at 7am April 17, hopefully in the new pavilion, weather permitting. Plans are being made to use the electric piano. We also have our voices to sing the glorious resurrection hymns.

It does not matter if we worship outside or inside. What matters is "this is the day that the Lord as made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Musically,
Gail



Relief for Ukraine

Please read the expanded article from our Mission Committee for how you can share your support with efforts to support Ukraine and refugees in their struggles for hope in the face of Russian aggression and war.

Church Office Transitions

The Personnel Committee and Pastor Steve are working to select a new Church Office Administrator for our part-time position. All interested applicants are encouraged to respond to the position posting and contact Pastor Steve or one of the Personnel Committee members for more information. We are thrilled to share that with the help of some wonderful volunteers and the potential temporary return of Susan Kuder, the office will have support help. Thank you for your prayers and understanding as we look for a new person to be part of our St. John's staff team.

Communion Book

Reminder to please sign the communion book (in the back of the church) at least once a year as part of your membership commitment.

Thank You

"We are so grateful to the Penn Northeast Conference and its UCC members for their support of Phoebe Ministries! Your generosity helps provide quality care services, uplifting activities, and faith-based programs that focus on the spiritual well-being of every resident, no matter their faith or denomination. Thank you for your long-time commitment to Phoebe and those we serve. With heartfelt gratitude."

Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope
Director of Pastoral Care Services



Lady Peeps

The Lady PEEPS Women’s Group will meet in Fox Hall at 6:30pm on Tuesday, April 19. Together we will enjoy a DVD by Christian comedian Chonda Pierce called “ENOUGH - Laugh~Cry~Love”. Please join us for a relaxing evening and continue to use the elevator entrance. Masks are now optional if you are vaccinated and refreshments will be served. All ladies are welcome!

Men’s Breakfast Group

The Men’s Breakfast Group of St. John’s meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton Street in Allentown. Our next meeting is on April 2 at 8:30am We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com

Sight and Sound Theater

Want to see the newest performance at Sight & Sound in Lancaster? It is the Biblical story of David. St. John’s has a bus reserved for Wednesday, July 6 to see this show, followed by a late lunch at Shady Maple buffet. We will leave the Church at 8am for the 11am show, then go to lunch. The total cost for everything, including tips is \$120.00. The bus is currently only one-third filled. If you are thinking about going, please make your reservation ASAP with Tom Moyer. The sooner we pay for the theater tickets, the better seats we can get. Also, we need to know if we have enough people to make this trip. Join us for a day of fun!

Iron Pigs Party Porch

After a year’s layoff due to COVID 19, St. John’s has reserved the Ironpigs Party Porch for Saturday, July 9. Ticket price remains the same as in the past, \$37, which includes great seats for the game, a picnic buffet, soft drinks and bottled water, and post-game fireworks. Contact Tom Moyer (610) 432-3372 for reservations.

Another IronPigs Opportunity

We’ve reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand in Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. Syracuse Mets (affiliate of the New York Mets) baseball game. Game day is Thursday, August 4, at 7:05pm The cost will be \$12 per person which includes a ticket to the game, \$2 ball park refreshment or food voucher, raffle ticket, and handling fee to St. John’s. It will be Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs will be \$1 all night long. So, mark your calendar—we will start taking reservations May 1 and payment must be made in advance. Please make checks payable to St. John’s. Deadline for reservations is June 19. For more information and reservations, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email crazzler@aol.com

St. John’s Walking Challenge Teams

The Healthcare Ministry is sponsoring a Spring Challenge which will start Sunday, April 24 and end Saturday, May 21. Lace up those sneakers. The weather will be nice for walking. Contact Sharon Antrim at sharonantrim@yahoo.com or call (610) 216-6207. Let’s see if we can beat our last total steps of 4,026,836.





“Verso Chat” - Wednesdays at 9am

You can participate in a mid-week boost to your spirit! Come participate in the fun and conversation on Wednesday mornings. We want to discover God’s still-speaking words, instilling life into our circumstances. “Verso” is the Latin word meaning “conversation.”

Join Pastor Steve and others from our faith family on Wednesday mornings at 9am onsite at St. John’s and on Zoom. You will find the “Verso Chat” link here and on the website to participate. Let’s study and chat about the verses of scripture together!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - March 27

Help St. John’s do more to support people in crisis situations through our denomination’s efforts to share in times of great need. Our One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is 1 of the “5 for 5” denominational support giving opportunities of the United Church of Christ throughout the year, providing support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings:

1. Our Church’s Wider Mission (often referred to as OCWM)
2. One Great Hour of Sharing (Disaster Relief, March)
3. Strengthen The Church (Church Vitality, Pentecost, June)
4. Neighbors In Need (World Communion Sunday, October)
5. The Christmas Fund (Retired Clergy, December)

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Special response envelopes will be in the worship bulletin again on Sunday, March 27, as we receive this offering. For those who wish to make an electronic contribution, please do so using our website and select the “One Great Hour of Sharing” from the menu of fund options.

Multi-Purpose Drive-By

Saturday, May 7 - 9am to 12:00 Noon at the Pavilion
(Rain or Shine)

Donations for Whitehall Food Pantry

- Help stock our shelves: hot chocolate, coffee, tea, crackers, soup, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, pasta, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, instant mashed potatoes, hamburger or tuna helper, macaroni & cheese, cake mixes
- Monetary contributions are always accepted

Fundraising Events

- Make reservations for IronPigs Party Porch on July 9 and IronPigs Grandstand on August 4
- Make reservations for bus trip for “David” at Sight & Sound Theater & Shady Maples on July 6
- Purchase gift cards for Giant and Weis grocery stores
- Sign up to order our Chicken Marsala Dinner on June 11
- Bring your Redner’s receipts

Opportunities to Serve

- Sponsor the wheat basket at the altar to support the food bank
- Sponsor altar flowers on a Sunday
- Sign up to be an usher/greeter
- Contribute to the “Ukraine Relief Fund”

Craft Sale

- What’s new: fabric baskets, clothes pin bags, center-piece table runner, shopping bags
- Household items: bowl cozies, dishcloths, table runners, T-towels, bread cloths, plastic bag holders, potholders, casserole totes, wine totes, cookbooks, 12-bean soup mix, and more
- Baby items: bibs, burping cloths, tooth fairy pillows, boo boo bunnies, baby sweaters, baby blankets, American Girl doll sweaters, and more.

Celebrating Lent

“A Holy Lent: Memories of a Season of Hope!”

“A Quiet Thought” M/W/F Devotionals - New online devotional meditations are available on our website under the “LENT” tab. Devotionals are on the St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, YouTube channel and Facebook page as well for easy access. Hear some special memories of hope from Pastor Steve and other clergy from our congregation, sharing memories of a Lenten season which gave renewed hope.

5G Connection Class - April 3 & 10 following worship and being received in covenant on Easter Sunday, April 17. See the 5G article in this newsletter (pg. 28) for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 9 - Time TBA. We are collecting candy for the Easter Egg Hunt NOW! Get your plastic eggs from the church and return them filled, or bring candy to the church by Thursday, April 7, and the eggs will be filled to share with the kids. As we’ve done in years past, age groups will be hunting for the plastic eggs in various locations so everyone has the opportunity to participate. Thank you in advance for your support of this fun event for kids of all ages!



Holy Week April 10-17

✓ Palm Processional for All

Come to the Pavillion to join the gathered costumed crowd, along with our own “Jesus and donkey” and wave your palm branch in joyful celebration of the entry to Jerusalem! If you’d like to don a costume, we will get ready from 8:45-9:15am. Those who are able will parade and process with palms from the pavilion into the sanctuary. Others will be welcome to share in the celebration as the costumed crowd arrives in the sanctuary. All can place their palms on our prepared cross to begin our Holy Week observance.

Palm Sunday, April 10

✓ Holy Communion and Hand Washing Service

Worship and celebrate a contemporary hand washing ritual and the celebration of holy communion. The symbols of our worship and celebration are stripped away as the service ends and the journey down the road to the empty tomb continues.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7pm

✓ Tenebrae Service of Darkness

Hear the ancient words of scripture tell the story of Jesus’ passion, death and burial. In quiet reflection, candles are extinguished around the sanctuary as the crowd and disciples abandon Jesus. We will be the sacred witnesses once again and then we will wait in hope!

Good Friday, April 15, 7pm

✓ Easter Sunrise Service

Join us for a resurrection day celebration! Bring your own cut flowers from your garden or receive a flower at St. John’s to place on our resurrection cross to make it bloom with color! Share in the celebration of Holy Communion.

April 17, 7am in Pavillion or Sanctuary

✓ Easter Breakfast, April 17

Come share in some fun and fellowship between the two services of worship.

7:45-9am in Fox Hall

✓ Easter Worship Service

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with our choirs and Holy Communion! Bring your own cut flowers from your garden or receive a flower at St. John’s to place on our resurrection cross to make it bloom with even more color!

Receiving new persons from our 5G Connection Class in covenant relationship.

April 17, 9:30am in Sanctuary

“The Road to the Empty Tomb!” culminates with our celebrations of worship around and during Holy Week. We do not go from “Hosanna!” to “Christ is risen!” The journey takes us through a week which prepares us for the great hope we have in celebrating that God’s LOVE always has the last word! “It is finished!” is a statement of God’s victory to demonstrate unconditional love to humanity. “Christ is risen!” boldly declares God’s triumph over the power of death!

Our season of hope proclaims we are Easter people and our hope carries us to the promise of the empty tomb! Participate in this “Season of Hope” with us!



Our Faith Home

Take part in the Our Faith Home small group conversations being held in the homes of some of our Consistory leadership and at St. John's and on Zoom. We invite you to participate and sign up to take part in one of these gathering conversations with a small group of 6-8 people. Join Pastor Steve in a time to better know each other and share our stories, our greatest hopes, biggest dreams, favorite memories and deepest longings for St. John's.

Sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office to sign up to attend one of Our Faith Home gatherings in March and more in April if needed! We want everyone from St. John's UCC, Fullerton, to have the opportunity to be part of one of these gatherings!

We are a "Whatever it takes" congregation! So by whatever means, let's share ourselves and our stories! Sign-up sheets are available in the Parlor with dates and locations of gatherings in March. Plan now to be part of an "Our Faith Home" gathering!

Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Shirley Abel | Lucille Hicks | Frank Nolt |
| Anita Beil | Geraldine Keim | Marilyn Piskula |
| Jean Coombe | Adrienne Kiesbar | Marietta Seyfried |
| Sandra Diefenderfer | Emma Repp Kuczek | Eleanor Smith |
| Susan Felegy | Elaine Lentz | Bert Smith |
| Sally Gibson | Jean Litzenberger | Peggy Snyder |
| Roberta Haberern | Roy Luckenbill | David (Tiny) Walters |
| Sylvia Hafer | Karen Moyer | Ethel Weiland |

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

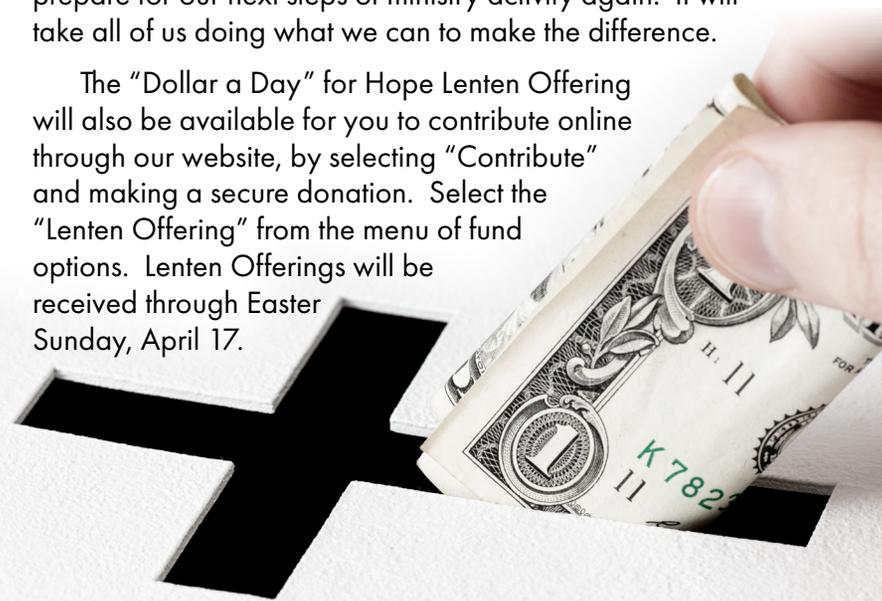
Lenten Offering "Dollar a Day" for Hope!



In the March newsletter we received special offering envelopes.

The Lenten Offering is still being received in which we invite you to contribute a "Dollar a Day" for Hope! The 40 days of Lent has traditionally been a time of giving to others in need and supporting ministry that reaches those most marginalized. As you share your gift during this season, perhaps you'll be able to share \$40. Perhaps this season of hope speaks to you to share more... \$10/day=\$400 or more! We invite you to share in such a way that a great gift of hope is shared to help renew and transform our ministry outreach and prepare for our next steps of ministry activity again. It will take all of us doing what we can to make the difference.

The "Dollar a Day" for Hope Lenten Offering will also be available for you to contribute online through our website, by selecting "Contribute" and making a secure donation. Select the "Lenten Offering" from the menu of fund options. Lenten Offerings will be received through Easter Sunday, April 17.



Easter and Spring Crafts are Here

Bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, and baskets, plus a whole lot more Easter items are available for sale thanks to our talented Crafters Group. They can be used as gifts or for decorations in your home.

We also have a lot of kitchen, household, and baby items plus our Women's Group church cookbook and our 12-bean soup mix. Please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com to arrange pick-up or delivery.



April Birthdays

4/01 Kevin Fox Dale Milham	4/15 Karen Christman Julia Gross
3/03 Larry Albright Aiden Hannis Roger Knauss	4/16 Ashley Venanzi
4/04 Eric Thompson	4/17 Sandra Easterwood
4/05 Curtis Christman Maya Williams Mark Yura	4/18 Alan Miller Crystal Schwenk
4/06 Michael McNicholas	4/19 Phyllis Csaszar Craig Headma Kevin Hoderman
4/07 William Meckes	4/22 Barbara Bateman Sylvia Hafer Michael Leibensperger
4/08 Karen Moyer	4/20 Leia Stocker
4/09 Mary Jo Bierman Christopher Christman Christopher Leibensperger Felicity Miller	4/22 Stephanie Hanzl
4/11 Audrey Craig Zoe Roth Helene Scheirer	4/23 William Hausman
4/12 Maci Dovico Bonnie Frana	4/25 Geraldine Keim
4/13 Donna Held James Tretter, Sr. Bonnie Weikel Sarah Young	4/28 Michael Kern
	4/29 Shirley Downing Samantha Shirk Carson Strauss Jacqueline Thomas
	4/30 Donna Chorney



April Wedding Anniversaries

- James & Patricia Molinaro
4/08/1961
- John & Charlene Hoff
4/08/1972
- Joshua & Veronica Miller
4/10/2010
- David & Beth Ann Erney
4/12/1980
- Jarius & Amy Miller
4/13/2013
- Roger & Lucille Schneck
4/20/1963
- Todd & Sandra Heffelfinger
4/23/1994

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



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

Pastor Connections



Rev. Alan Miller update by his wife Candy: "In December 2021 Alan had an MRI of his brain and a CT scan from shoulders to mid-thigh. The MRI results were negative. No active auto-immune encephalitis was seen. However, the CT scan showed 2 metastatic lesions on his spine. He had 10 radiation treatments.

On February 15 Alan was seen at Duke Cancer Center. He had a PET scan that showed multiple metastatic lesions in both lungs, liver, and 2 ribs. Alan started chemo on March 9. He will have 2 weeks on and 1 week off, for 3 rounds. He will have another scan to check if the chemo helped. The doctor said that this chemo will not cause him to lose his hair and very few people will have nausea and vomiting. His blood count will be closely monitored.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and texts. Alan loves hearing from all of you." (Alan's birthday is April 18).

Alan and Candy's address is:

**4080 Saint John's Street
High Point, NC 27265**

(do not use the abbreviation for "Saint")



Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith has announced that she will be leaving as the Intentional Interim Pastor and Coach of Trinity Great Swamp UCC, Spinnerstown, effective May 22, 2022.

Rev. Michelle Funk was elected pastor at Heidelberg Union Church, Slatington, effective April 1, 2022. Congratulations, Michelle!

Basket Social

May 21, 2022 9am to Noon In the Pavilion.

Drawing will be at Noon. Tickets are \$5 per Sheet.

We are looking for basket donations. The drop off time will be Sunday 5/15 right after church, in the pavilion parking lot and Friday 5/20th from 5 to 7pm. We ask if you can't make either of these times please let me know, and if you have any questions, see Kenda Catalini or call (484) 358-7453.

Tickets will be available prior to and day of the basket social.

Come on out and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Dinner To Go

Saturday, June 11 – pick up in Fox Hall from 3 to 5pm.

Menu: Chicken Marsala, roasted red bliss potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter. Price is \$13 per meal, and payment is due with orders by Sunday, June 5. There will be no dining in, and no holds. Please mark your calendars. Any questions, please see Kenda Catalini or call (484) 358-7453.

Personal Items Needed

As their group service project, this year's Confirmation Class is sponsoring a Toiletry Drive through Sunday, March 27 to support the ministry and mission of The Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Because their Drop-in Center provides a shower for those in need, we are asking for donations of:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Hand/Body Lotion
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant

Trial/hotel sizes are preferred but regular-size bottles are also appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!



Ukraine Emergency Appeal

"Ukraine Relief Fund" – How Can You Help?

On February 24, the Russian military began an unprovoked attack on Ukraine and invaded the country. Over 2.6 million people have fled and sought refuge outside of Ukraine. The numbers keep growing. Others have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes and are fighting for their freedom. We've seen the strength, courage, and resilience of the Ukrainian people. Heart-wrenching pictures on the news calls us into action. St. John's will be working with the National Office of the United Church of Christ and the Ukraine Orthodox Church of the USA to help with this humanitarian effort. Both organizations are working with their global partners in the area to provide shelter, food, water, clothing, medicine, transportation, toiletries, and care to this war-ravaged country and assist with refugee assimilation into neighboring countries. Locally, we will be establishing a partnership with St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on Fullerton Ave. to determine what items they are collecting (other than monetary funds) so we can assist them in this endeavor.

With your help, St. John's is accepting monetary contributions to the "Ukraine Relief Fund." As this is an emergency situation, our plan is to try to disburse the funds weekly. If this war escalates, as we anticipate it will, we may provide funds to other reputable organizations based on the need. A special offering envelope is included with this newsletter. You can send checks into the church

office payable to St. John's. Be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" in the memo section. Donations can also be made to St. John's on-line or by text by simply looking for the Ukraine link. Additional offering envelopes can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary along with blue and yellow lapel pins to wear and show your support. We continue to pray for the Ukrainian people and those in the world affected by this crisis.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of April, we are collecting canned sweet potatoes for our Easter meal distribution. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. Monetary contributions are accepted as well and can be forwarded to the church office or via on-line or text.

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative's Community Meals

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households twice a month. Everyone is welcome to attend both meals on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6:30pm. The host locations change every time, and they will decide if masks are required and if it is a sit-down or take-out meal. Call the host church to see what guidelines they are following.

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, 4/3*	TBD - No organization is scheduled*	--	--
Tuesday, 4/19*	TBD	--	--
Sunday, 5/1*	TBD	--	--
Tuesday, 5/17	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610-434-8661)

*As we go to press, there are no host churches for these dates. You can contact Shari Noctor, WCHI Director, at (484) 225-0358 or email her at WhitehallCoplayHunger@gmail.com to learn any updates.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Church World Service Hygiene Kits – Thank you to everyone who contributed items for CWS. We had enough supplies to put together 50 kits—far surpassing our goal by 250% or 20 kits. They were delivered to the office at PNEC where they will be taken to CWS in New Windsor, MD.

One Great Hour of Sharing – OGHS contributions are still being received until the end of March.

CROP Walk – The 2021 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raised over \$30,000 to help Church World Service assist our neighbors in need locally and around the globe, including victims of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. As a result of everyone’s faithful efforts, the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen will each receive over \$3,700 for their vital ministries.

Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

April is the last month where the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry will provide a breakfast at Zion’s UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown. Take-out meals are given to those who are experiencing homelessness and to the working poor. Meals are offered from 7am to 9am on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Thank you to Nancy Dougherty for coordinating this important ministry this past season.

How did St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	February 2022	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,525.80	\$2,755.60	\$2,850.30
OGHS	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	-0-
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 125.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 520.00



Invest in Our Planet

Earth Day was founded in 1970 and will occur on Friday, April 22. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson and inspired by the protests of the 1960s, Earth Day began as a “national teach-in on the environment.” By raising public awareness of pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight. The holiday is now a global celebration. It gives everyone a chance to learn ways in which we can take care of this planet. Earth is the only known planet to support life. In order to continue to live our lives, we need to treat our home with respect. Since its inception, the organizers promoted events educating the public about a variety of subjects: climate change, air and water pollution, erosion, recycling, renewable fuels, efficient cars, rain forests, etc. Earth Day serves as a conscious reminder of how fragile our ecosystem can be, and how our actions can have positive or negative consequences on the world we live in.

Here are some simple ways to help save the planet: recycle, conserve water, carpool or ride a bike or walk, start composting to fight food waste, stop using plastic bags, plant a tree, donate your old clothes and home goods instead of throwing them out, read labels and use environmentally-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products, save electricity and turn off lights when you leave the room. To learn more about Earth Day, how you can help, or donate, go to earthday.org

5G Connection Class

Do you have a 5G Connection at St. John's UCC? Having a strong connection is fundamental when we think about our phones, sharing information, communicating, live streaming... you name it, the better the connection the more enjoyable the experience of participating. We find the same when we think about our experience of the St. John's UCC, Fullerton faith community! The greater our connection, the greater our experience!

Whether you've been part of the church family for decades or a recent participant or online viewer, we want every person to have a great connection. Everyone is invited to "upgrade" your connection and take part in our 5G Connection Class, where we will explore what it means to:

- G**ather in faith and fellowship,
- G**ain understanding and relationships,
- G**ive in time, talent and treasure,
- G**row through acts of compassion and service,
- G**o! Sharing our life and love, grace and hope!

The 5G Connection Class will be held over 2 consecutive Sundays, April 3 and 10 following worship. Participants will have the opportunity to be received in covenant relationship in worship on Easter Sunday, April 17! Contact the Church Office or speak with Pastor Steve to learn more if you're interested in being part of the 5G Connection Class. Classes will be offered 3-4 times a year for your participation. Everyone is welcome to learn more!

Altar Flower Dates Available

April 3, 10, 17, 24	July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	August 7, 14, 21, 28	November 6, 13, 20, 27
June 5, 12, 19, 26	September 4, 11, 18, 25	December 4, 11, 18, 25

Contact Margaret Young with the Altar Guild or call the Church office to inquire about availability.

Easter Flower Orders

Use the order form below, or call or email the church office to place your order. Full payment for all flower orders must be received by Monday, April 4th. Please note if you will be picking up your flowers, or if you wish to donate them to the church.

Pot Size	Description	Price	#Ordered	Cost
6"	Tulips (5+ bulbs) - Red	\$10.00		
6"	Tulips (5+ bulbs) - Pink	\$10.00		
6"	Tulips (5+ bulbs) - Purple	\$10.00		
6"	Tulips (5+ bulbs) - Bi-color	\$10.00		
6 1/2"	Daffodils (min. 5 bulbs) - Yellow	\$10.00		
6"	Lilies (5+ blooms)	\$10.00		
7"	Hardy Azaleas - Lavender	\$20.00		
7"	Hardy Azaleas - Pink	\$20.00		

Make checks payable to St. John's UCC Total Cost: _____

Full payment for all flower orders must be received by Monday, April 4th.



**St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
FEB 2022**

Income	Electronic	2/6/2022	2/13/2022	2/20/2022	2/27/2022	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,396.47	\$2,558.00	\$1,082.00	\$3,756.00	\$2,412.80	\$16,205.27
Rental Income--Gross				\$1,312.50	\$42.50	\$1,355.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp						\$-
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers		\$75.00				\$75.00
Christian Education	\$30.00					\$30.00
Special Gifts					\$350.00	\$350.00
Total	\$6,426.47	\$2,633.00	\$1,082.00	\$5,068.50	\$2,805.30	\$-

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$13,272.00	\$13,377.00	\$(105.00)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,293.47	\$9,591.00	\$(1,297.53)
Property	\$4,180.64	\$3,991.00	\$189.64
Parish Programs	\$1,805.39	\$2,868.00	\$(1,062.61)
Total	\$27,551.50	\$29,827.00	\$(2,275.50)

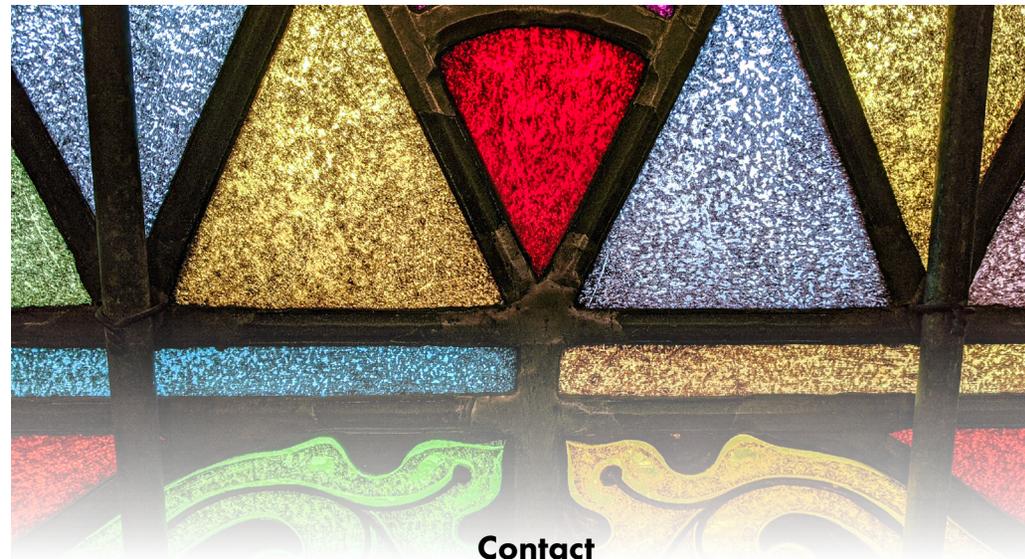
	Month	Year
Total Income	\$18,015.27	\$43,575.64
Total Expenses	\$27,551.50	\$51,588.49
Net LOSS	\$(9,536.23)	\$(8,012.85)

Mission Giving, FEB 2022

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,525.80
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$25.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$125.00
Total	\$1,675.80

**St John's UCC Fullerton
Fund Balances
For Month Ending, FEB 2022**

Account	Jan-22	Feb-22	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$43,419.23	\$35,947.83	\$(7,471.40)
Giant Card Funds	\$1,409.51	\$2,659.51	\$1,250.00
Weis Card Funds	\$2,060.00	\$2,810.00	\$750.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$46,888.74	\$41,417.34	\$(5,471.40)
IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking	\$70,180.27	\$74,133.13	\$3,952.86
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,862.84	\$31,863.07	\$0.23
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$102,043.11	\$105,996.20	\$3,953.09
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$525,470.65	\$514,719.32	\$(10,751.33)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$674,402.50	\$662,132.86	\$(12,269.64)
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
NET FUND BALANCE	\$588,851.93	\$576,582.29	\$(12,269.64)



Contact

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April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings 10:30am 56</p>	<p>4 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>5 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 8:00pm S&F Committee: Zoom</p>	<p>6 9:00am Verso Chant with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm SIAKS 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7 6:00pm Music & Worship 7:00pm Mission: Zoom</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>10 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Handbell & Jubilation Choirs 10:30am 56 10:40am Confirmation Class: Fox Hall</p>	<p>11 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>12 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 10:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm Elders Meeting: Rm 201 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>13 9:00am Verso Chant with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Jubilation Choir Sings</p>	<p>15 7:00pm Good Friday Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir Sings</p>	<p>16 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>17 7:00am Easter Sunrise 9:30am Easter Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings 9:30am New Members</p>	<p>18 6:15pm No Jubilation Choir 7:00pm No Handbell Choir</p>	<p>19 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Lady Peeps: Fox Hall</p>	<p>20 9:00am Verso Chant with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall</p>
<p>24 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Chancel Choir Sings 10:40am Confirmation Class: Fox Hall</p>	<p>25 6:15pm Jubilation Choir 7:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>26 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 & Zoom</p>	<p>27 9:00am Verso Chant with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 & Zoom 6:30pm Zumba Class: Fox Hall 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:30am Zomba classes: Fox Hall 10:00am Memorial Service Robert, Rodney & Rose</p>