



St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 15 • Issue 119 • August 2022

“Creating New Rituals”



“Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and God will dwell with them. They will be God’s people, and God will be with them and be their God. Every tear will be wiped from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. The One seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’”

~ Revelation 21:3-5

Rituals connect us as people of faith. They help us mark sacred moments with words and actions which stick with us. Rituals both create lasting memories and connect us to each other and events. About 5 years ago, my friend/mentor Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza shared an experience of a “new ritual” for the Virfina-Highland Church congregation he served in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Sharing from Unitarian friends in their worship, the congregation joined in a celebration called “Water Communion.” It became an annual part of their experience that brought great unity and tangible reminders of their oneness in the love and grace of God.

In writing about their experience of worship, Michael said, “Members young and old will bring their water to the altar from their homes or their travels, from a stream on a hike or a trip to the ocean. It will blend together then be purified and become the holy water of our congregation. We will use it to renew our baptismal vows, baptize babies, anoint wedding couples, bless departing members and families’ new homes, and more.” The ritual of Water Communion marks the end of summer and the coming together of our community of faith to start a new season of growth and service. It is a new ritual for us, but one that quickly became incredibly powerful, appropriate, and meaningful.” I hope this will be a new ritual for us to embrace this next year.

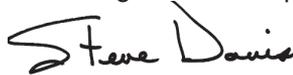
Our rituals carry significance and meaning, and I've discovered that creating new experiences of ritual can unite us across generations and places in life. I hope as we look to this Fall and determine what our next steps will be as St. John's UCC, Fullerton, we will open ourselves to the possibility that God is indeed making new experiences of faith for us to embrace. God is still creating, still speaking, still making all things new. I pray we are all thinking about the ways we can create new rituals, new experiences of hope and faith with the people we love and gather with as our faith family.

Every transition from that which we know to something new has challenges. As I have many times over the course of my life and ministry, I recently made the very difficult decision to leave a church, city, state, and home I love, believing God had something new to create and bring into my life. God led me to you, St. John's UCC, Fullerton! It felt like I needed new rituals, new ways to re-sacramentalize my life. The hopes and dreams of a lifetime changed for us all in some way, shape or form over the last two years. What we knew has changed. Some we have long loved have died. The life we knew and loved came to an end or changed. The choice is to live in the fading memory of what was and might have been, or to take what has been and use it to create what might be. God is still speaking hope and possibilities into our experience of faith, drawing and inviting us to embrace something new.

Although we may not really feel it yet, we can make the choice to explore the possibilities the future MIGHT hold. New rituals are a good thing, and it is time for me to prove it. Perhaps it is time for you to do the same....

We Worship, We Love, We Serve, No Matter What!

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 4th Sunday Social Events | 6 |
| August Birthdays | 20 |
| August Newsletter Articles Due Date | 18 |
| August Wedding Anniversaries. | 21 |
| Backpacks & School Supplies for WCSD | 23 |
| Batter Up | 18 |
| Boscovs Friends-Helping-Friends Shopping Pass | 14 |
| Confirmation Class Registration Begins for Fall 2022 | 5 |
| Consistory Members | 13 |
| Contact Us | 27 |
| Convalescent & Homebound Residents | 13 |
| “Creating New Rituals” | 2 |
| Financial Update | 26 |
| How Did St. John’s Family Do? | 25 |
| Men’s Breakfast Group | 14 |
| Our Faith Home and Followup Sharing Sessions | 15 |
| Our Pages. | 9 |
| Outdoor Worship & Pavilion Dedication | 7 |
| People News | 17 |
| Personnel Committee Report. | 11 |
| Re-Opening – Our “New Normal” | 5 |
| Save the Date – Upcoming Events | 17 |
| Stewardship/Donations | 8 |
| Strengthen the Church | 24 |
| Suicide Prevention | 12 |
| Summer Camps at St. John’s - Scholarships Available! | 16 |
| Taking My Faith Along To The Polls: an Invitation from Becca Stephens | 10 |
| Ukraine Relief Fund Update | 22 |
| Upcoming Mission Events | 24 |
| Verso Chat Continues! Grow With Us. | 14 |
| Weis & Giant Gift Cards & Redner’s Receipts | 25 |
| Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative | 23 |
| Whitehall Food Pantry. | 22 |
| Why Why Not Join Us? | 25 |
| Worship This Summer | 6 |

Re-Opening - Our “New Normal”

A reminder: our current recommendations remain in effect and are posted on the website. We urge everyone to remain attentive and focused on the well-being of our collective community. For those vaccinated, masking is optional during worship and other gatherings. For those not vaccinated, we ask you to wear a mask. We provide KN-95 masks at our entry tables. We continue to urge all to use a mask during group singing.

The Consistory continues to monitor continuing case numbers and hospitalizations for COVID in our area and is paying attention to the still-ongoing variants and projections for Fall/Winter 2022. We continue to urge everyone to get vaccinated and “boosted,” including children, to assist us in keeping our community and most-vulnerable healthy. Thank you for your continued understanding and participation in these measures.

Confirmation Class Registration Begins for Fall 2022

Confirmation in the Church is an intentional period of growth and preparation when young people can learn more about the Christian faith, how we experience that faith in the United Church of Christ, and who we are together in our faith as St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. Persons participate in weekly sharing from September to May, to acknowledge the pledge of faith that may have been made for them as infants/children in baptism, and to affirm the core faith and values we share.

If you are in the 7th or 8th grade and have not yet gone through a Confirmation Class, we invite you to contact the Church Office for more information about our 2022-23 Confirmation Class. A parent/youth gathering will take place Sunday, August 14 following morning worship for all who are interested in knowing more.

Worship This Summer

July 31 will be our Music Sunday at St. John's with many great hymns and special music shared. Come take part in a great day of singing songs we love and praising God together!

We will continue to share in great worship in August as we explore the "Faith & Core Values" which ground us and inspire us as people in this journey! You've been sharing great ideas and topics which Pastor Steve is bringing to us in messages of hope and inspiration. We're sharing who we are as people who live in God's love! Join us each week for worship!



4th Sunday Social Events

This summer, join the congregation as we connect at the Pavilion for fun and friendship! July 24 and August 28 will all be Social Sundays at St. John's! Take part on July 24, as we welcome Patrick Sandt, our new Director of Music Ministries and his husband, Sean. Share in the fun with ice-cream and popsicles!

Come for who knows what deliciousness on August 28! Reconnect and share in making some new friends and getting to see long-cherished ones. These 4th Sunday Socials are a great time to meet new friends and reconnect with long-cherished ones!

Outdoor Worship & Pavilion Dedication

Sunday, August 28 9:30am

St. John's completed all final work on the new Field of Dreams and Pavilion this past spring and we have already used the space for celebrations, church activities, family gatherings, social events and more! On Sunday, August 28, we will gather for worship at the pavilion and be joined by our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, as we share in the ritual of dedication for this space!

Gather with us for a great morning of celebration, worship and honoring all who helped bring this vision into reality! Stick around following worship for refreshments and our 4th Sunday Education Task Force Social! We look forward to celebrating with the church family and neighborhood!

The Pavilion is open and available for use. Contact the Church office (610) 264-8421 for information and reservations.



Stewardship/Donations

Become an "Automatic Contributor"

"I like having something to put in the offering plate when I come to worship!" We all appreciate the opportunity to share and express our gratitude to God for the life and work of faith in which we share. We want to participate in making a difference at home and around the world by sharing in acts of love, hope and justice together.

One way to be sure your contributions happen every month is to become an "automatic contributor," so your gifts can be shared once or twice monthly. For all the special opportunities we have to express our generosity and respond to need, we offer the ease of using the QR Code found in our worship bulletin, on the worship slides and in other locations around the church.

This simple, square, coded image will allow anyone with a smartphone camera to be directed to our St. John's UCC donation page! From this secure website page, you may select the funds or causes and amount you wish to contribute. We hope you will find this to be one more easy way to make donations in the moment as opportunities are presented.

St. John's UCC, Fullerton continues to operate in a significant deficit. While we are attempting to re-engage and return to more substantive ministry activity, we continue to experience a shortfall each month in contributions over our expenses, which causes us to use limited reserve funds to meet expenses.

If you are not already doing so, please sign up for automatic secure contributions to be made from your bank account or credit/debit card. This allows for donations to continue on a regular basis, as well as making your donation process easier when special needs come up to which you wish to respond. There are no fees associated with donations made using your bank account and a small cost per transaction for processing credit/debit cards. If you need help getting set up or want to know more, please contact the Church Office or visit with Tom Moyer or Rev. Steve Davis. Become an "Automatic Contributor" today and help the church no matter where you may be on a Sunday morning!



A new way to give!



Our Pages



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj1bRzT57F9M8Qi-EdITKkA>



<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsuccfullerton>

If

It **REALLY** helps our channel gain viewership when you: Subscribe, Like, Share and Comment. you aren't sure what this means and would like to learn, please contact the church office.

(610) 264-8421



Taking My Faith Along To The Polls: an Invitation from Becca Stephens

August 3 - 6-8pm

As a member of POWER Lehigh Valley, I see this year's upcoming general election as an opportunity for me to witness to my faith as it relates to our current political climate. Many think that separation of church and state means that we can't talk about politics in church. As a church we cannot promote a particular candidate because that would violate the terms of our non-profit status, however, we can focus on political policies which impact all of us.



I believe that Jesus was modeling God's kingdom on earth, which we pray for every Sunday. Think about Jesus' ministry. Jesus intentionally reached out to people on the margins. That's what his ministry was all about.

As a woman of faith, I am looking at the policies advocated by political candidates. I am looking for candidates who are advocating for people on the margins – people dependent on food banks because their wages are too low, those living without homes, the LGBTQ community. I am looking for candidates who will support the rights of women, who will support the rights of all citizens to have access to the ballot, who will protect our voting rights, rather than restrict them. That's how I am looking at this year's election.

POWER Lehigh Valley is sponsoring a mass meeting August 3rd, 6-8pm at Resurrected Life Community Church, as an opportunity to learn about POWER Lehigh Valley, our campaigns and the work we are going to do together for the 2022 Election.

Register here: bit.ly/powerlv22

I see voter engagement as a perfect way to put our faith into action. If you would like to know more, you can reach me at (484) 529-8369 or rystephens49@ptd.net

Personnel Committee Report

Great news from the Personnel Committee!!! We hired a new Director of Music Ministry and Organist. We reviewed the applications that were received and one of them really impressed us. Through the Internet, we listened to him play hymns on both the organ and the piano. He also sang. Our first meeting was through Zoom. One of our committee members went to his church to hear him in person unbeknownst to our candidate. He did so well in the first interview that we invited him to an in-person interview.

At that meeting we invited some members of the Chancel, Jubilation and Bell choirs to participate in a question-and-answer session including Joy Gravely, DonnaLee Yeatts, Emilie Moyer, Colleen Kulhamer, Kerby Hower and Gregg Fisher. He played hymns on our organ and piano that he prepared to showcase his talents. We chose a hymn at random for him to play and that too was exceptional. At the end of the meeting, after some discussion, we all agreed that he was a good fit for St. John's and offered him the position.

Our new Director of Music Ministry and Organist is Patrick Sandt. He will begin on August 1. We will have a Meet and Greet session so you all have a chance to welcome him to St. John's on August 3rd at 6:30pm. We are blessed to have a person of this caliber take our choirs forward in a positive direction.

Big thanks to Emilie Moyer for her dedication, excellent piano playing during this transition time for St. John's.

Paul Raszler - Chairperson

Wayne Lichtenwalner - Vice Chairperson

Carole O'Connell - Secretary

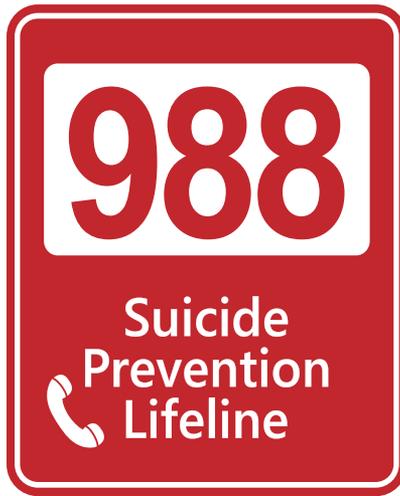
Rev. Steve Davis - Pastor

Brian Strauss

Dewey Yeatts

Sharon Czekner

Tracy Fisher



Suicide Prevention

On July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255 transitioned to an easy-to-remember, 3-digit number, 988. This represents an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen and expand the existing network of over 200 locally operated and funded crisis centers across the county. In advance of the 988 transition in July, the Lifeline Suicide & Crisis Network is looking to bring on new volunteers and paid employees to answer calls, chats, and texts from people in crisis. All employees and volunteers receive training, so if you are a caring person who wants to help those in crisis, apply today.

Find your opportunity

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/jobs>

Read more about 988

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988>

Please check out the toolkit at

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit>

Consistory Members

Brian Fisher, President – brianfish2001@yahoo.com

Bill Fink, Vice-President – wzrdfink@aol.com

Janet Ebert, Consistory Secretary – jlm814348@aol.com

Gary Black – gary.t.black@outlook.com

Amy Feidler – alfeidler@yahoo.com

Joy Gravely – gravelyjoy@gmail.com

Donna Held – dlheld413@gmail.com

Wayne Lichtenwalner – wlichtenwalner@gmail.com

Brenda Pascoe – brendenpascoe@yahoo.com

Cindy Reck – cmreck57@gmail.com

DonnaLee Yeatts – [ydlee68@aol.com](mailto:ydleee68@aol.com)

Margaret Young – kbeeone2003@yahoo.com

Michael Baatz – rbaatz@hotmail.com

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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



Verso Chat Continues! Grow With Us!

You are welcome to participate in the Wednesday morning fun and conversation! Looking for a mid-week boost and connection with friends? Each week's review of the lectionary readings for upcoming worship services is its own study opportunity, so you can drop in and participate any time you are available. 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!

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 St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is August 6 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 QVRRBold@aol.com

Boscovs Friends-Helping-Friends Shopping Pass

The event is October 19, 2022, 8am to 1pm. The shopping pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sale price on all purchases for that day only. The shopping pass costs \$5.00 and St. John's keeps the entire amount towards our fundraiser. Plan to start your Christmas shopping on that day and enjoy extra savings. Contact Ginny Brokenshire at (610) 439-0443 to purchase the shopping pass.



Our Faith Home and Followup Sharing Sessions

St. John's 22.0

Marketers often share the “latest and greatest upgrade” of products with the “version 2.0, 3.0” and so on. Whether it’s your cell phone, computer software or our faith experience, we often invite people to something new with the rollout of the next version. Our Consistory is doing the same and inviting YOU to be part of the conversation for our journey forward, or “St. John’s 22.0” for this Fall 2022 as we think about next steps in re-introducing activities and programs into our life and ministry schedule. With the conversation on June 26, we are now sharing the possible options in small group conversations.

Several are taking part in Our Faith Home small group conversations in July, as well as participating in the online/print survey to help us gather information. The congregation has been invited to connect with others in the church in July/August, share questions and think together about how we can participate, taking bold steps in the journey forward! Now we look to God and look to YOU again as we prepare. Please return the survey to the Church Office or respond online using the Google Form with the “Our Faith Home” logo from the website/email.

We are a “whatever it takes” congregation! So by whatever means, let’s share ourselves, our love, our learning and our service in the next steps we take together! Respond to the survey, share with an elder and Consistory leadership. Be part of the next steps of St. John’s 22.0 as we grow “Our Faith Home” forward!

Summer Camps at St. John's - Scholarships Available!

St. John's Christian Early Learning Center and St. John's UCC, Fullerton are pairing up to reach out to kids in our church and the area with summer "Camp" Events! Instead of a 1-week Vacation Bible School, we will help support the summer 3-day events of our Learning Center and include more kids, ages 3-12!

If you would like to donate to support a child attending camp, please note your donation accordingly in the final camp of the summer!

SAVE THE DATE!

ARTS and CRAFTS CAMP - August 16-18, 9am-12pm

To volunteer one or more mornings to assist with camp or to register a child, contact Jazmin Smith at Staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com. Camp is \$90 per child for the 3-day camp.



CONTACT

JAZMIN SMITH

STAFF@STJOHNSLEARNINGCENTER.COM

(610) 443-0254

People News

The Installation of Rev. Michelle Funk is scheduled for Sunday, August 7, at 3pm at Heidelberg Union Church. The church is located at 5187 Irvin Rd. in Slatington. A reception with a hot buffet will follow the service; however, reservations are required prior to July 24. Anyone is invited to attend Michelle's installation worship service.

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope who will celebrate the 35th anniversary of his ordination. He was ordained at Dubbs Memorial UCC on August 30, 1987. Scott is currently the Director of Pastoral Care at Phoebe Ministries and also serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors at Lehigh Conference of Churches. Best wishes can be sent to Scott at 444 Laurel Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235.

Save the Date – Upcoming Events

Craft Vendor Fair & Outreach Events

✓ Saturday, September 24 - 9am to 2pm at The Pavilion

Nut & Fruit Sale – Past customers will be contacted

✓ Coming October/November

Gift Card Bingo

✓ Friday, October 7 - 7pm, doors open at 6pm at Fox Hall

Boscov's 25% Off Shopping Pass

(Passes are now available by contacting Ginny Brokenshire)

✓ Wednesday, October 19 - 8am to 11 pm at Boscov's

26th Annual Road Rally

✓ Sun., October 23 - 1:30pm at Grape Street parking lot



People used to drop off their used toner at the church and we could recycle it with the Staples Rewards program. Staples changed their rules, apparently, and we won't reap any benefits any longer. Staples will take their used toner, though, if you want to drop them off!

Batter Up!



It'll be good to return to Coca Cola Park after two long years away. There will be 63 St. John's baseball fans going to the IronPigs game on Thursday, August 4, at 7:05pm. The IronPigs will be playing the Syracuse Mets. Our church custodian Christina Bach's son, Alex Bach, has been chosen to throw out the first pitch.

August Newsletter

If you are contributing an article for the September newsletter, it will be due on Sunday, August 14.



The STARs committee is your group of tech-savvy, creative folks who assemble the weekly live stream of the worship service.

St. John's
Technical
Artistic
Resources

We are looking for people who would like to learn about what we do and join our team.

starsfstjohns@gmail.com

August Birthdays

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>8/1 Debra Altorfer Nancy Bowman Diane Buss Laney Headman Robert Jennings</p> <p>8/2 Jay Gilbert Robert Saeger III</p> <p>8/3 Blayke Jordan Brianna Kuhns Joshua Mill John Vigiione Matthew Young</p> <p>8/4 Eric Lord Marilyn Piskula Adam Rarich Margaret Young</p> <p>8/5 Regina Mohr David Quinn</p> <p>8/6 Stephanie Batdorf</p> <p>8/7 Austyn Venanzi</p> <p>8/9 Kayla Bryant Jeanne Fischl</p> <p>8/10 Jackson Hentz</p> <p>8/11 Alexander Bryant Deadra Clewell Sandra Diefenderfer MaryBeth McNicholas</p> <p>8/13 Michael Gravely</p> <p>8/14 David Mohr Gregory Sommer Becca Stephens</p> | <p>8/15 Angela Buskirk Noreen Muth Peggy Snyder</p> <p>8/16 Andrea Guan</p> <p>8/17 Matthew Buskirk Trevor Heffelfinger Joanne Heppe</p> <p>8/19 Patricia Stumpff</p> <p>8/20 Sharon Czekner Barbara Holden Lee Ann Lopez James Molinaro</p> <p>8/21 Thomas Heppe Stanley Luckenbill</p> <p>8/23 Jim Carr Emma Rarich</p> <p>8/24 Diane Orłowsky Jacob Verba</p> <p>8/26 Lori Silfies</p> <p>8/27 Donald Devers Jr.</p> <p>8/28 Marina Newton</p> <p>8/29 Nancy Delp Scott Eberhart Linda Helfrich Kathryn Kaintz Jamie Santee Tyler Shankweiler</p> <p>8/30 Carole Flores Shirley George</p> <p>8/31 Ellen Sagazio</p> |
|--|---|

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



August Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|--|---|
| Brenda & Dennis Pascoe 8/1/1970 | Diane & William Orlowsky 8/18/1984 |
| Russell & Donna Chorney 8/3/2005 | Richard & Margaret Baatz Sr. 8/19/1978 |
| Robert & Annamarie Barrall 8/5/1989 | Craig & Stephanie Hanzl 8/19/1989 |
| Ryan & Michelle Brobst 8/6/2005 | Andrea & Joseph Guan 8/19/2018 |
| Beth & Gary D Neitz 8/7/2004 | Mark & Tammy Yura 8/19/1999 |
| Stephen & Christine Reck 8/8/2015 | Bradley & Alyssa Beckwith 8/19/2006 |
| Stacy & Timothy Sommer 8/9/2003 | Kathy & James Haggerty 8/20/1983 |
| Donald & Robin Brensinger 8/11/1990 | Bruce & Roberta Pope 8/20/1977 |
| Lissa & Ken Wuchter 8/11/2017 | Melissa & Kyle Szoke 8/21/2010 |
| Brian & Stephanie Deutsch 8/14/1999 | Charles & Linda Apple 8/21/1965 |
| Donald & Sharon Foellner 8/15/1970 | John & Connie Viglione 8/22/1964 |
| Virginia & Ted Hess 8/15/1970 | Lamar & Beverly Peters 8/22/1964 |
| David & Carolann Adams 8/16/2017 | Jeffrey Phillips & Amanda Kaiser 8/23/2003 |
| Ronald & Sandra Glass 8/16/1958 | David & Grace Mohr 8/30/1958 |
| David & Noemi Quinn 8/17/2013 | Deadra & Mark Clewell 8/31/1996 |



Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of August, we are collecting coffee, pancake mix, and pancake syrup. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Contributions can also be accepted by mailing it to the church office or by on-line or text giving. A drive-by event to receive your donated food is also scheduled for Saturday, September 24, from 9am to 2pm at the Pavilion.

Ukraine Relief Fund Update

Your contributions so far have helped with Ukrainian relief by giving to UCC National, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Project HOPE, and World Central Kitchen. As long as the crisis continues, we will receive donations by mail, at worship, or by on-line and text giving. We sent \$390 to UCC National in June and will receive funds for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in July. For the month of August, funds will go to Project HOPE. Be sure to note that your contribution is for "Ukraine Relief Fund." Special offering envelopes along with yellow and blue lapel pins showing your support can be found on the table in the lounge area next to the sanctuary.

Here is what Mr. Rabih Torbay, President and CEO of Project HOPE, had to say about contributions received at Project HOPE:

“During my time in Ukraine, I met many survivors and dedicated health professionals, working night and day to care for them. And I returned home even more determined to help. What I witnessed in Ukraine was devastating. Russian forces have attacked more than 100 health facilities, even those marked with red crosses to show they are medical relief centers. Brave doctors, nurses, and support staff have remained to care for the sick, traumatized, and injured. They are performing miracles with limited resources—and they urgently need our support. Here’s some of what your monetary gift can help deliver: (1) Medical supplies like gauze, sutures, needles, and wheelchairs. (2) Medicines including insulin, antibiotics, and oral rehydration salts. (3) Prenatal care for pregnant women and infant kits for newborns. As hard as it is to process how the worst and the best in humanity can co-exist side-by-side, I can’t and won’t give in to despair. None of us can when there is so much need. I have seen firsthand how even in the direst of circumstances your generosity can make a huge difference.”

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households 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, 8/7 | TBD - no organization is scheduled | | |
| Tuesday, 8/16 | Redeemed Christian Church of God | 5 N. 3rd St., Coplay | (610) 262-8993 |
| Sunday, 9/4 | TBD - no organization is scheduled | | |
| Tuesday, 9/20 | Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church | 3300 7th St., Whitehall | (610) 434-8664 |

Backpacks & School Supplies for WCSD

The Mission Committee thanks everyone for your generous response to our Backpacks and School Supplies Drive with donations given before worship and at our drive-by on July 23. We will keep you informed of items that were collected in our next newsletter.

Strengthen the Church

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Strengthen the Church offering. A total of \$225 was received. This special mission offering of UCC National supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. Your generosity helped plant seeds for new churches, awakened new ideas in existing churches, and developed the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Upcoming Mission Events

Food Pantry Donation Drive-By and Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, September 24, 9am to 2pm at the Pavilion

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 9, 1:30pm

Registration begins at 1pm at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott St., in Allentown.

Why Why Not Join Us?

Tune in to see what this committee is all about. You may have some good ideas to share or become involved in our mission work. The Mission Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8, at 7pm via Zoom.

Contact Jean McGonigle at (484) 350-2041 or Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 to get the Zoom link and passcode.



How Did St. John’s Family Do?

| Recent Outreaches | May 2022 | YTD 2022 | YTD 2021 | YTD 2020 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Our Church’s Wider Mission | \$1,320.80 | \$8,480.90 | \$8,890.90 | \$9,884.26 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$ 225.00 | \$225.00 | \$170.00 | \$25.00 |
| Whitehall Food Pantry | \$50.00 | \$690.00 | \$1,540.00 | \$2,023.00 |
| Ukraine Relief Fund | \$50.00 | \$2,935.00 | N/A | N/A |
| Wheat Basket | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | N/A | N/A |

Weis & Giant Gift Cards & Redner’s Receipts

If you buy groceries (HELLO - isn’t that everyone?) and are not participating in these programs, the church is leaving free money on the table!

We receive a percentage of each purchase back from these businesses when you purchase a gift card / turn in your receipt.

Please contact Tom Moyer to get started - he assures us it’s easy and only takes a brief moment to help the church financially!

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
JUN 2022

| Income | Electronic | 6/5/2022 | 6/12/2022 | 6/19/2022 | 6/26/2022 | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Offerings for Operating Expenses | \$6,258.11 | \$2,726.00 | \$1,722.00 | \$2,552.00 | \$2,975.00 | \$16,233.11 |
| Rental Income--Gross | | | \$250.00 | \$1,225.50 | | \$1,475.50 |
| Fundraising Income--Net of Exp | \$48.00 | \$208.00 | \$77.53 | \$104.00 | \$(250.00) | \$187.53 |
| Endowment Interest | | | | | | \$- |
| Flowers | \$62.50 | \$65.00 | | | \$50.00 | \$177.50 |
| Christian Education | \$30.00 | | | | | \$30.00 |
| Special Gifts | | | | | \$206.81 | \$206.81 |
| Total | \$6,398.61 | \$2,999.00 | \$2,049.53 | \$3,881.50 | \$2,981.81 | \$- |

| Expense Summary | Actual | Budget | Difference |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pastoral Services | \$13,706.00 | \$13,811.00 | \$(105.00) |
| Staff Salaries & Expense | \$11,260.93 | \$9,591.00 | \$1,669.93 |
| Property | \$1,312.79 | \$3,276.00 | \$(1,963.21) |
| Parish Programs | \$1,673.54 | \$2,718.00 | \$(1,044.46) |
| Total | \$27,953.26 | \$29,396.00 | \$(1,442.74) |

| | Month | Year |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Total Income | \$18,310.45 | \$136,520.71 |
| Total Expenses | \$27,953.26 | \$160,549.21 |
| Net (LOSS) | \$(9,642.81) | \$(24,028.50) |

Mission Giving, JUN 2022

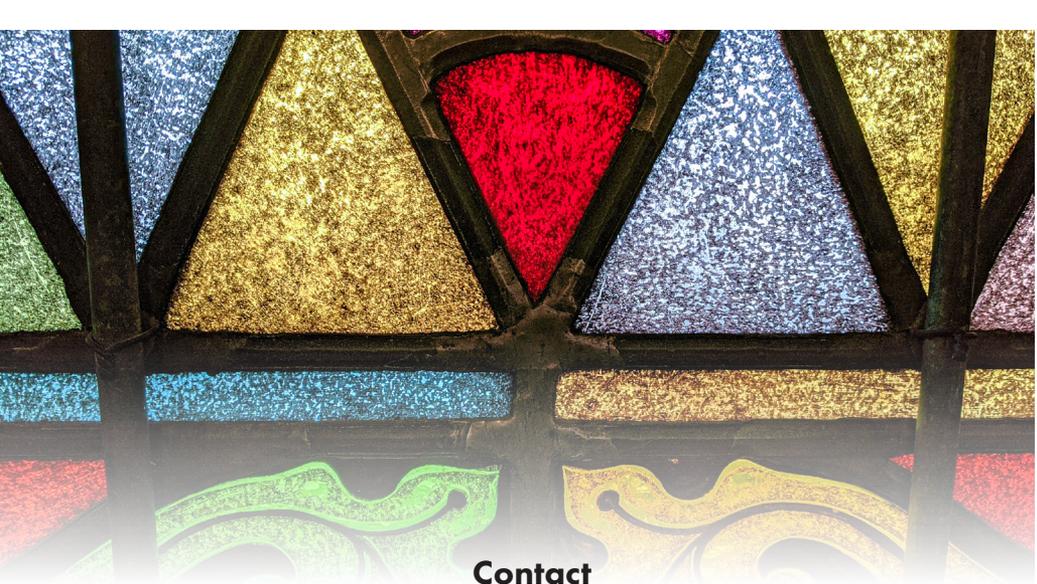
| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Our Churches Wider Mission | \$1,320.80 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$225.00 |
| Ukrainian Relief | \$50.00 |
| Whitehall Food Bank | \$75.00 |
| Total | \$1,670.80 |

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

| Account | May-22 | Jun-22 | Difference |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Checking Account--KNBT | \$35,923.18 | \$29,299.12 | \$(6,624.06) |
| Giant Card Funds | \$1,749.51 | \$3,017.01 | \$1,267.50 |
| Weis Card Funds | \$3,010.00 | \$3,010.00 | \$- |
| sub-total General Fund Assets | \$40,682.69 | \$35,326.13 | \$(5,356.56) |
| IN & OUT Account--KNBT Checking | \$74,823.02 | \$71,019.24 | \$(3,803.78) |
| Restricted/Property Money Market | \$31,863.88 | \$31,864.14 | \$0.26 |
| sub-total Restricted Assets | \$106,686.90 | \$102,883.38 | \$(3,803.52) |
| Endowment Fund--KNBT | \$480,087.19 | \$445,595.53 | \$(34,491.66) |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$627,456.78 | \$583,805.04 | \$(43,651.74) |
| Cornerstone Pavillion Loan | \$(85,550.57) | \$(85,550.57) | \$- |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$(85,550.57) | \$(85,550.57) | \$- |
| NET FUND BALANCE | \$541,906.21 | \$498,254.47 | \$(43,651.74) |

Financial Update

Offerings received in the second week of July 15 were \$2,605, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail, and in the Sunday offering plate. This brings our total offerings for July to \$7,719. To reach our monthly giving "break even target" of \$22,500, we will need \$4,925 weekly for the remainder of July. We continue to run behind on income sufficient to meet 100% of the month's expenses. Recently we have seen a downward trend in giving. Through June, we are \$24,028 behind in overall income compared to expenses.



Contact

Rev. Steve Davis
Senior Pastor

sjfsrpastor@gmail.com

Rev. David Quinn
Visitation Pastor

pedalinpastor@gmail.com

Patrick Sandt
Director of Music Ministry / Organist

stjohnsUCC.music@rcn.com

Alison Berger Boor
Office Administrator

sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com

Sue Weldner
Treasurer

sbweldner@gmail.com

Thomas and Emilie Moyer
Financial Secretary

tommoyer54@gmail.com

Michelle Gutekunst
Worship Tech
Coordinating Custodian

starsofstjohns@gmail.com
custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com

Bob Czekner
Sexton

rczekner11@aol.com

Christine Bach
Sexton

iron1@verizon.net

August 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 | 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve 6:30pm STAKS Committee Mtg | 6:30pm Zumba Fox Hall (Summer schedule) 7:05pm Iron Figs game - Alex Bach throws out first pitch | | 8:30am Men's Breakfast Group: Horn Farm Restaurant 9:30am Zumba classes: Fox Hall |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 9:30am Worship Service | 7pm Mission Committee | 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm S&F Committee | 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 | 6:30pm Zumba Fox Hall (Summer schedule) 6:00pm Music & Worship | | 9:30am Zumba classes: Fox Hall |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Confirmation Class - Parents & Youth meeting Rm 201 September Newsletter articles due | | 9:00am Arts&Crafts Summer Camp 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Consistory | 9:00am Arts&Crafts Summer Camp 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 | 9:00am Arts&Crafts Summer Camp 6:30pm Zumba Fox Hall (Summer schedule) | | 9:30am Zumba classes: Fox Hall |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:30am Worship Service | | 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 | 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 | 6:30pm Property Committee 6:30pm Zumba Fox Hall (Summer schedule) | | 9:30am Zumba classes: Fox Hall |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 9:30am Worship Service Outdoor Worship & Powlton Dedication 4th Sunday Social | | 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 | 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 | | | |