



St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 15 • Issue 122 • November 2022

“A Heart of Thanks”

“Give thanks with grateful heart...”



During October, our prayer response was the hymn, “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.” It calls us to remember the gift of God to each one of us through our relationship of love and grace in Christ. The refrain speaks to my soul. “And now, let the weak say, ‘I am strong,’ Let the poor say, ‘I am rich,’ because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!”

We may all feel weak from time-to-time, depleted and lacking in enthusiasm. We may think we are lacking in resources to do more than get by, or in ability to do more, give more, be more in our life and witness. And yet, when I see St. John’s, I see a community taking steps forward, trusting God and each other, believing in God’s ability and celebrating our community. We may grumble a bit at first, but we see time and again the inspiring ways in which God meets us, how we find hope in God’s Spirit, and experience transformation in Christ’s love.

This November 14th, we will celebrate our first year of faith shared together. I remember oh so well the tremendous blessing of being called to be your pastor and Bill and I arriving with our moving truck loaded up and a group of 25 people ready in our home’s driveway to help us unload. What an incredible welcome and impression you made! You set the tone of gratitude and giving thanks for new relationships. We still celebrate you and offer our heart of thanks for all the acts welcome, your openness to new ways of being the church together and your affirmation of our lives in partnership and ministry with you. What a challenging and exciting year this has been. I have a heart of thanks for the joy of leading a people dedicated to our mission, seeking to be the still speaking presence and love of God in the world.

So my friends, however you may feel today... weak, strong, poor, rich... let us give thanks to the Holy One with a grateful heart, full of thanks for all that God has done for us. As we journey forward together, let us seek opportunities to welcome ALL people, neighbors and strangers, family and family of choice, to the welcome and open embrace of love that is deeply felt here at St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. With a heart of thanks, may we “Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!”

Yours in grace and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor

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Honoring and Farewell to Pastor Dave Quinn

Wednesday, Nov. 23

5:30pm Potluck Dinner in Fox Hall

7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

The Consistory invites the St. John's family and friends to help us honor Pastor Dave Quinn as he leaves us as our Visitation Pastor after over 6 years. We want to celebrate his gifts of leadership, care and friendship with us by sharing CARDS and by CONTRIBUTING to a financial gift of blessing. Bring your cards with your personal remembrance note of appreciation to the event or drop them by the Church Office to share if you're unable to attend. Financial contributions may be made online:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/contribute>

Note your gift for Honoring Pastor Dave. We will present him with our love gift of generosity at the dinner.

If you would like to assist with the "entertainment" and decorations as we honor Pastor Dave, please visit with DonnaLee Yeatts. The Consistory will be providing a large cake for our dessert. Congregation members are asked to bring other potluck items to share for our meal. If you'd like to volunteer to assist with preparations, decorating, set up/clean up, please visit with Brian Fisher.

Join us as we give thanks for Pastor Dave and his ministry with us and wish him well as he continues to serve two congregations as pastor. We will join in our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7pm and Pastor Dave will share the evening message as we share our thanks together.



Showing Care and Support in COVID and Flu Season

We've hopefully all been paying attention to public health warnings of a more significant and severe flu season as well as anticipated COVID cases as the colder temperatures come and indoor activity and less mask wearing create increased exposure opportunities.

To do our part to help prevent a return to obligatory mask wearing, we are urged to get flu vaccinations and COVID boosters as soon as possible. With our increased group activities, we will monitor conditions related to the COVID pandemic and our responsible measures to promote health and care for all. We continue to have COVID exposures and breakthrough infections and are thankful people have taken measures to isolate, mask and return to activity when recuperated. This should be a reminder to us that the virus is still spreading around the globe, with still over 350 dying every day in the US according to the CDC. Please remember: our current vaccination, "boosting" and masking recommendations remain in effect and are posted on the website.

We urge all to use a mask during group singing, and give added attention if you are seated in close proximity to others.

For those vaccinated, masking is optional during other aspects of our worship and other gatherings. For those not vaccinated, we ask you to wear a mask. We provide KN-95 masks at our entry tables for all who would like one.

The Consistory continues to monitor case numbers and hospitalizations for COVID in our area and is paying attention to ongoing variants and projections for Fall/Winter 2022-23. We urge everyone who can to get vaccinated and "boosted," including children, to assist us in keeping our community and most vulnerable healthy. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and participation in these measures.

Music Corner of St. John's

My article this month is a Facebook post that was shared with me and after reading it, I couldn't help but share. Travis L. Boyd writes:

"Things have changed. There aren't as many people participating in church choirs these days. Some have gone on to sing in the heavenly choir. Some of the voices have weakened a bit. Some have lost a portion of their vocal range. The traditional ways of doing things are disappearing. Many choirs do not sing in robes anymore. The instrumentation has changed. The piano and organ are supplemented with other instruments, including drums and guitars. Things definitely have changed, and change is inevitable (and sometimes very healthy!)

However, choral singing is still beautiful. Dynamics are still breathtaking. Articulations and phrasing are still painting vivid pictures of the text. Good breath support is still creating notes that are on pitch and carry with them great depth of sound. Choir members are still dedicated to working hard each week to bless the Lord and His people.

What has not changed is the fact that choir is still one of the most beautiful and engaging ministries in the local church. It provides a powerful expression of praise and worship that a soloist, a band, or the congregation cannot do.

So make sure your choir (if you are still fortunate to have one) is affirmed and appreciated regularly. Don't take the choir for granted. It takes a lot of commitment to create and maintain a church choir.

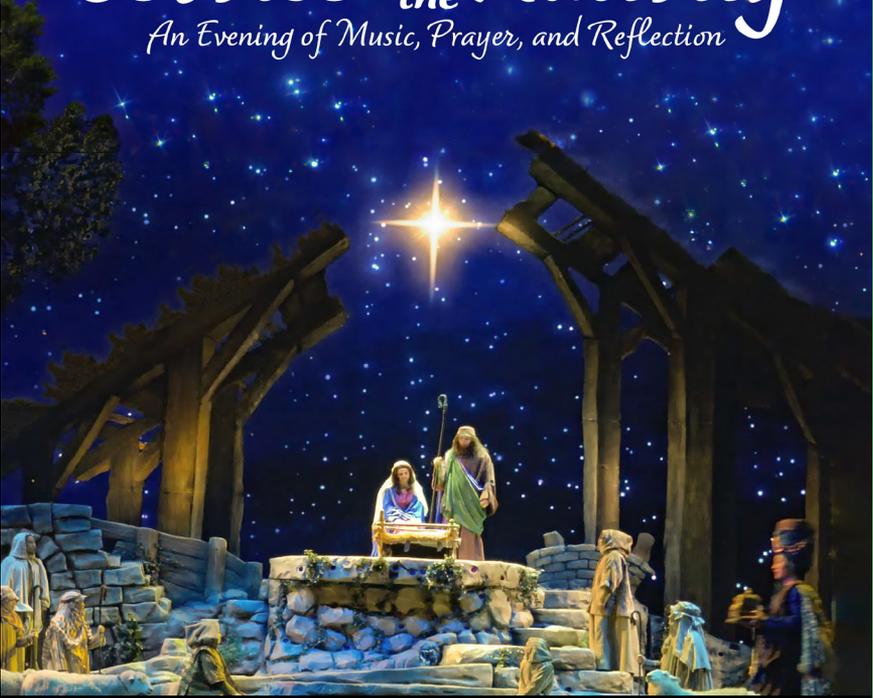
Pray for your choir members regularly. Let them know how much you are inspired by their ministry. Hurray for all those church choir members and their leaders! May God continue to use you powerfully in a world that desperately needs to hear your message.

The message is the mission!

Musically Yours,
Patrick Sandt

Service of the Nativity

An Evening of Music, Prayer, and Reflection



St. John's
FULLERTON - UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

6pm Sunday, December 18, 2022
575 Grape Street - Whitehall, PA

All Saints Day Observance

Sunday, October 30

St. John's will honor and remember the lives of those members who have passed since last November 1 and now share in the Church Triumphant. Family members of the deceased will be presented with a memorial candle from the services as our "saints" are named in worship. Give thanks and celebrate their lives!

Stewardship/Donations

Become an "Automatic Contributor"

Currently, 49 giving units participating.

Giving statements will be prepared in early November to help every family see where they are in their financial support of St. John's as the year begins to come to a close. The Stewardship & Finance Committee asks every person and family to see what you can do to help St. John's finish the year in a stronger financial position.

Becoming an automatic contributor helps us better estimate income and provides for consistency during periods when attendance and giving may be lower. While we are all feeling the continuing effects of inflation and cost increases/shortages globally, we are doing our part to reduce expenses while still seeking to expand our activities and ministry outreach. The challenges are significant. We continue to share weekly updates on attendance and giving and urge your faithful support.

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! 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!



Scrip Gift Card Sales

It's that time of year again! You know the holidays are just around the corner when we start getting ready for our annual Scrip gift card sale. [Here is the order form that you can use to place an order for all of your holiday gifts.](#) What better way to shop for those on your gift list than with a Scrip gift card? It makes finishing your shopping easy and the gift cards cost so much less to send!

If you are interested in making a purchase, complete the [order form](#), downloadable from the church website Forms page, with your check made payable to St. John's UCC Fullerton and mail to:

St. John's UCC
575 Grape Street
Whitehall, PA 18052
Attention: Tracey Glass

Order form and payment must be received by 11/20/22. Gift cards will be available for pick-up on or after 12/11/22. If you have any questions call the church office (610) 264-8421 or Tracey (610) 905-8426.

Order forms may also be placed in her mailbox in the church office or placed in the offering plate. Happy shopping!!

Visitation Committee Needs Your Help

Gift bags will be put together by our Visitation Committee and will include snacks, cards with stamps, tissues, pens/paper, socks etc. Your monetary donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Congratulations – A Time to Celebrate!

November 15 marks the first anniversary of Pastor Steve's being hired as St. John's Senior Pastor. The congregation officially welcomed Pastor Steve and Bill at his first worship service on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

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 on November 5 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 (610) 393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com

"Fun Raising" Committee

We are looking for basket donations for our next basket social December 4. -Accepting items until November 28.

If you don't have a basket, no worries, we can help out with that, we are also taking monetary donations to build a basket for you. If you have any questions please see Kenda Catalini, (484) 358-7453.

Walking Challenge Update

The St. John's Fall 2022 Walking Challenge is finished. I'm happy to say we have the most awesome walkers. The total for this challenge is 5,155,883 steps. That equals to 2,291.5 miles. It's been a lot of fun for all the participants even though the weather wasn't the greatest. The health benefits mean so much. We're looking forward to Spring 2023 for the next challenge and hope you will sign up.

Healthcare Ministry
Sharon Antrim

Healthcare Ministry - Grief Support

The mission of our Healthcare Ministry is to promote the spiritual and physical well-being of the St. John's congregation. We believe this includes our mental health and how we grieve together through times of loss. We gladly partner with others in the family of faith and share gratitude for Rev. Evelyn Stupp, a United Methodist minister, who has long relationship with St. John's and serves in this ministry area.

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury United Methodist Church, 1533 Springhouse Road, Allentown. The group meets the fourth Tuesday monthly at 1pm in the upper level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next gatherings for support are October 25 and November 22.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 20 - 9:30am

Plan to be present for our Fall Congregational Meeting to vote on our proposed 2023 Budget and to elect a new elder and Consistory members for the class of 2025. The proposed budget on page 19 will be mailed with third quarter financial statements and available to pick up in worship and in the Church Office by November 1, in keeping with the advance notification and information required by our bylaws.

This important gathering and vote will give us opportunity to consider implications and needed next steps for our financial health and next steps in ministry support, as well as welcoming new leaders to our Consistory.

Worship & Faith Formation Schedule

We are off to a good start with people returning to our worship and faith formation activities. There's always opportunity to form a new group/class as we grow forward.

8:15 Worship / 9:30 Faith Formation / 10:45 Worship

A kids table with "Busy Bags" and other fun supplies is set up in the Parlor during worship services for any who need some extra activities to welcome children to worship, and Room 201 is open for kids and parents who need to step out from the sanctuary. We will have the worship service livestream available in Room 201 during the 10:45 worship. Enjoy and receive our kids in worship with joy as Jesus did!

Our new "Blessed to Be a Blessing" Sunday morning Faith Formation is for children, age 4 through 6th grade. This group will meet in Room 101 at 9:30am. Adult leaders and helpers are scheduled through December. Please visit with Rev. Becca Stephens to learn more about how you can help with this vital ministry with our young people.

Confirmands (7th & 8th graders) and all other youth who are present during the 9:30am hour are invited to class activities in the Youth Room, 301. Rev. Steve Davis, Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner lead and facilitate this class on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month. 4th and 5th Sundays are open for the youth to volunteer in other areas and participate in congregation social activity.

In adopting this new schedule in August, the Consistory continues to monitor our progress as a congregation each month through the year-end. How we participate through our worship attendance, share our financial support, and participate in expanded activities to grow us forward will guide our discernment in evaluating if other measures are needed should levels of support and participation not keep up with the needs for sustainability. Please consider how you can give of your time, talent, and treasure to sustain these significant goals! Show your "No Matter What!" spirit as we grow together.

Sundays Social Hour - 9:30am in Fox Hall

Do you enjoy food and friends? Coffee and conversation on a Sunday morning? We are now intentionally creating a social time for after worship to join in a time of connection in Fox Hall during the Faith Formation hour (9:30-10:30am) between the two worship services. If you are not currently in an adult class or group during the 9:30 hour, join us for refreshments, get to know each other and mingle. As we share in two Sunday morning worship services, we want to continue to build the relationships and friendships we've made over the past year of worshiping together in one service. So, stay after worship or come early. Meet in the middle and enjoy conversation and time to be together.

Different ministry groups and Faith Formation classes will be invited to "Host" some social time, bring some goodies to share, and enjoy some time between the worship services for more fun, casual and meaningful connections. Whether you are part of a Faith Formation class or not, stay after worship or come early to enjoy some social time together!

Please contact the Church Office if you, your class, group, or committee would like to host one of our Sunday Social Hour events! A Sign-up poster will also be available in the Parlor.

Water Gathering on Vacations

As some have traveled during the summer and fall, you have collected some samples of water in bottles from your journeys across the country and around the world. Thank you! We invite you to continue this activity throughout the year as you travel to special places. Bring back a small bottle of water and give it to Pastor Steve for safe keeping. During the year, we will remind you to continue this activity. The water will be received purified and then next Fall on our "Gathering Sunday," we will begin using this water for our celebrations of baptism and other sacred moments in worship. Thank you in advance for helping create a new ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world.



POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be celebrating Friendsgiving Day on Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm in Fox Hall.

Ladies come join us as we spend a relaxing evening together playing games, making an easy art project and growing friendships. Refreshments will be served. Please use the elevator entrance to join us and I will see you there! -Colleen Kulhamer

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 a drive-by pick-up or a pick-up after worship. 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, dark chocolate cranberries, bridge mix, and harvest medley. Cost is \$12.00 for a 1-pound bag. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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

Thank You

“Thanks to all who helped with our recent Gift Card Bingo! We had many people helping that night, and many donations of food, drink, and prizes. With your help, the profits were a little over \$3000! Thanks for all of your hard work.” -**Tom Moyer**

“Thank you everyone who had their hands in making the Prayer Shawl. It has come in handy when the air conditioning is on. Thanks again.” -**Phyllis Ambearle**

“Thank you for your recent donation of \$150 to “Let’s Help Ukraine” Humanitarian Aid Fund. Your generous donation is changing lives of refugees, wounded soldiers, and helps the families of those who have lost their loved ones.” -**Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA**

WOW! What a celebration!—and also a surprise. I never knew how much fun it was to become 100 years old, but it happened because there are so many wonderful people at St. John’s. I saw the announcement in the bulletin but had no idea it would be as big as it was. I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, prayers, cake of flowers, birthday cake, refreshments, and the two albums of personal messages. What a surprise to receive a proclamation from the Mayor of Whitehall making September 22 “Emma Repp-Kuczek Day.” The celebration continued with my being honored later at a PEEPS meeting. A big thank you to everyone and for all the work that was done. It was great and sincerely appreciated!

-**Emma Repp-Kuczek**

Cheesesteaks To Return

The renowned Vince’s Cheesesteak Truck event was a great success and they would like to come back to our St. John’s Pavilion parking lot more often! Thank you for coming out and inviting friends to enjoy a great meal and support St. John’s at the same time. Look for additional announcements in the coming months about the return of Vince’s Truck!



Verso Chat Bible Study Group

"I want to connect more with the examples of Scripture in guiding my faith journey." Someone recently shared that they don't know how to study the Bible and connect with God through these sacred texts. We all approach the Bible through our own lens of understanding and experience in life. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to have God's timeless truths and "still speaking" Word find life-giving application for your life today.

Each Wednesday morning, you're welcome to participate in fun and conversation as we explore the lectionary readings for upcoming worship services as a study opportunity. ALL are welcome to drop in and participate any time you are available. Each week is it's own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words for our life today. "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 below and on the website to participate. Let's study and chat about the verses of scripture together!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571428042>



Reminder—
Daylight Saving Time
ends on November 6.
Set your clocks back
one hour!

PNEC News



Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) current Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, will be taking a well-deserved rest and renewal sabbatical in the first quarter of 2023 (Jan., Feb., Mar.). In preparation for her absence, the Staff & Personnel Committee at PNEC, along with Pastor Bonnie's guidance, and the Conference Board's approval have found a suitable candidate to fill Pastor Bonnie's role during this time. PNEC is pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith has accepted the position of Sabbatical Coverage Conference Minister. In major aspects of her coverage, PNEC will be looking to Becky as both a Pastoral and Spiritual leader who maintains a climate of pastoral care through guidance and support of authorized ministers and congregations. Pastor Becky will assume the supervisory role of PNEC paid and volunteer staff, facilitate all Church and Committee on Ministry functions of the Conference, and oversee the Search and Call process for full time calls as well as to be available to staff within the Conference for assistance. As her schedule permits, she will participate in programs and celebrations for authorized ministers and congregations in times of transition, crisis, and special needs.



Zion's Reformed UCC, Allentown's historic Liberty Bell Church and the oldest church in Allentown, had its final service on Sunday, October 2. Shrinking attendance on Sundays and financial concerns forced the church to cease services. The church is also home to the separate Liberty Bell Museum, which features a replica of the Liberty Bell and other exhibits from the Revolutionary War and colonial America. As one centuries-old era ends, a new one begins! The church is being passed on to Resurrected Life Community Church. The gifting of Zion's will allow Resurrected Life to expand the church's school programs, relocate its office spaces, explore using the sanctuary as a creative arts venue, and "continue its investment in the community.

Holiday Shopping Starts Here at St. John's

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, friendship bunnies, church cookbooks, 12-bean soup mix, and more!

Something New: We've got casserole totes, bowl cozies, clothespin bags, shopping bags, and patchwork table runners!

We may have items available in the lounge area on a Sunday or two before Christmas—stay tuned for the dates. If you need a specific item, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com



Potato Filling Sale

Don't forget your potato filling made with REAL potatoes, not instant, for your Thanksgiving Feast this year.

The filling will be made on Saturday, November 19 and will be available for pickup from 3pm to 5pm on that date or the following day after church service in Fox Hall. The cost of the filling will be \$7.50 for a 2 lb. container. What a bargain! Filling can even be frozen to be used at a later date.

[Order forms](#) are available on the table at the back of sanctuary or on the church website. Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 6. Do not be caught without this great filling at your Thanksgiving table. Order today!

Contact Cheryl Weaver with any questions.

Helping Hands Wanted

We will be in need of helping hands the day of the filling sale. We could use potato peelers, cutters, cooks, mixers and container fillers. We will be starting at 8am on Saturday, November 19 in Fox Hall. Please contact Cheryl Weaver if you are able to help in any way. There is always lots of laughter and fun on that day!

Don't forget to bring your favorite peeler, knife or cutting board.

Homemade Christmas Candy

The "Fun Raising" Committee is going to be selling homemade chocolate candy for Christmas season. The cost is \$14.00 a pound. There will be semi-sweet chocolate peanut butter balls and semi-sweet coconut balls this year. You can order full pounds of either or half peanut butter/half coconut. The [order form](#) is available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or on the church website. Deadline to order is November 27 and delivery will be at church on December 18. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ginny Brokenshire at (610) 439-0443.

Gift Card Bingo Update

Our October Bingo event was our first large event fundraiser in over 2 years and the success of the event surpassed our expectations! Profits of the event exceeded \$3,100! We will hold back 10% to support mission outreach in our community and beyond.



An outpouring of thanks to Tom Moyer, Cheryl Weaver and all the "Fun" Raising team for their planning work. Our thanks to Jay Gilbert for his significant support in sponsorship, and to Bill Castello for his creativity to visually and musically enhance our experience. Thank you to our excellent team of volunteers, from our Caller, Paul Raszler, to our various stations and tables helpers and kitchen crew.



Our thanks to the city workers who finished construction and opened Grape Street on the day of our event. We greatly appreciate all who shared the event through social media, made food, donated supplies, created baskets, provided gift cards and in many other ways worked to make the event a great success!



And, our thanks to the community for coming out to support our event and join us in a great evening of fun, laughter, games and food! We look forward to our next event!

December Newsletter

If you are contributing an article for the December newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to our new address - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, November 13.

Photos for your article should be included as attachments to your email. Please do not embed them in the file.

Authors: some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

November Birthdays

11/01	Carol Seagreaves Martha Ann Strauss Alan Weiner	11/16	Carolann Adams Jeffrey Phillips Kyle Szoke
11/2.....	Tyler Stocker Karen Stoitsits	11/17	Beth Neitz
11/4.....	James Ebert Gayle Mihulec Maci Pollitt	11/18	Judith Miranda Jean VanFleet
11/5.....	Nicole Headman Jean Litzenberger	11/21	Rachel Eichman Kathy Roth
11/6.....	Cole Buskirk	11/22	Kendra Fox
11/7	Roxanne DeMilio Colleen Kulhamer Lissa Wuchter	11/23	Tyler Brown Ronald Glass Tracey Glass Brianna Hentz Andrew Kulhamer
11/8.....	Charlene Hoff Edward Sommers Connie Viglione	11/25	Richard Dickey Jr Carol Raszler Mia Venanzi
11/9.....	Linda Apple Joelene Weaver Lori Yocco Candra Zellner	11/26	Paul Long Lauren Schutts
11/10	Sharon Antrim	11/27	Tyler McNicholas Amanda Volkert
11/11	Robert Bold	11/28	Aiden Sommer Susan Weldner
11/12	Zander Rarich	11/29	Alyssa Lopez
11/15	Adrienne Kiesbar Jack Ohl	11/30	Arline Yoder

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

Church Chuckle



What do you call a priest who becomes a lawyer?

Answer: A father-in-law

November Wedding Anniversaries

Conrad & Julie Beck 11/03/1984	Rev Dr Becky & Robert Beckwith 11/18/1972
Craig & Tara Bryant 11/09/2002	Thomas & Emilie Moyer 11/19/1960
Lori & Gregory Yocco 11/09/1985	William & Lori Fink 11/23/2008
William & Debra Hausman 11/11/1995	Stanley & Linda Luckenbill 11/27/1969
Randy & Dee Schlenker 11/11/2000	Donald & Lynn Miller Jr 11/27/1976

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

St. John's Technical Artistic Resources



The STARs committee is your group of tech-savvy, creative folks who assemble the weekly livestream of the worship service. We are looking for people who would like to learn about what we do and join our team. starsofstjohns@gmail.com





“Operation Santa” – Mitten Tree Project

The Mission Committee is happy to announce that we are again having “Operation Santa” for the Christmas season. **We are not collecting actual gifts this year as requested by the two charities. Instead, we are encouraging everyone to give a donation to Phoebe Ministries or Valley Youth House or both.** 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 – Founded in 1973 as a single shelter in the Lehigh Valley for homeless young people, it 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.

Text/online/mail your donation payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. Specify Phoebe and/or VYH in the memo section. Deadline to receive your contribution is Sunday, November 27.

Hurricane Disaster Relief

The United Church of Christ has issued an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Ian and Fiona. With wind speeds topping out at 130 mph and 155 mph, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. More than a week and a half after Fiona's winds left Puerto Rico in the dark, hundreds of thousands of people remain without power. Hurricane Ian brought significant damage to Florida, Cuba, the Caribbean, and the Carolinas. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges. It is way too early to know the full extent of damage in Florida, yet early indications point to a recovery that will take many years—perhaps a decade.

Your generous financial support will be used by the UCC and its global and local partners in the areas of greatest need. Your gift enables the church to be present with people amidst catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Enclosed with this newsletter and in the lounge area at church is a special offering envelope marked "HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF." You can send your check into the church office payable to St. John's or pay on-line or by text. Be sure to note "Hurricane Disaster Relief" in the memo section or on the website link.

Ukraine Relief Fund Update

Your contributions so far have helped with Ukrainian relief. As long as the crisis continues, we will receive donations by mail, at worship, or by on-line and text giving. For the month of September, donations of \$375.00 were received for World Central Kitchen and donations for October will be given to UCC National. For the month of November, funds will be given 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.

(continued)

Here are how your contributions have helped the people of Ukraine:

“After months of Russian occupation, the Ukrainian military liberated a large region near Kharkiv in September. WCK’s Relief Team immediately jumped in to support communities that have been living under occupation, bringing fresh food and meal kits as soon as it was safe to do so. As Russian troops have withdrawn, the condition residents are living in is dire. Under occupation, food was being withheld from families, so WCK arrived as soon as possible to help fill gaps as food systems recover. Missile strikes have left areas without power and no running water. Ukrainians throughout the region are readjusting to sleeping above ground after weeks and months of hiding in basements. As WCK brought in food, some people were afraid to speak with the WCK team—they couldn’t believe support had finally arrived after such a dark time.”

Whitehall Food Pantry

Donations are needed for Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals. We need boxes of stuffing or filling mix. Monetary donations will also be used to purchase gift certificates for turkeys. Other food items are always accepted as well. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area off the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual CROP Walk. We collected \$665.00. Thank you to Amy Feidler for participating in the walk.

Deadline to receive donations for Neighbors in Need (NIN) is October 31.

The Mission, “Fun”Raising, and Worship & Music Committees and our Crafters Group would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the Craft and Vendor Fair on September 24.

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 location changes 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, 11/6	St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Tuesday, 10/15	First Presbyterian of Hokendauqua	3005 S. Front St., Whitehall	(610) 264-9693
Sunday, 12/4	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, 12/20	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661



How Did St. John's Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	Sept 2022	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$956.00	\$11,584.90	\$13,498.30	\$14,509.18
Neighbors in Need	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 150.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 70.00	\$ 1,055.00	\$ 2,035.00	\$ 2,298.00
Ukraine Relief Fund	\$ 375.00	\$ 3,445.00	N/A	N/A
CROP Walk	\$ 60.00	\$ 665.00	\$ 756.00	\$ 502.00
Wheat Basket	\$200.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,715.00	\$2,073.00

2023 Budget Draft Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 2022 Actual vs 2023 Budget	% Change 2022 Actual vs 2021 Actual
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual (Est)	Budget		
Offerings	\$289,185	\$250,258	\$239,287	\$223,560	\$250,906	12.23%	(6.57%)
Rental Income	\$20,755	\$14,722	\$15,916	\$15,500	\$15,450	(0.32%)	(2.61%)
Fundraising Income	\$22,972	\$5,816	\$5,834	\$7,500	\$10,000	33.33%	28.56%
Endowment Interest	\$20,852	\$21,176	\$21,084	\$22,680	\$32,980	45.41%	7.57%
Flowers Income	\$2,956	\$728	\$1,777	\$3,000	\$4,000	33.33%	68.82%
Christian Ed Income	\$4,374	\$1,304	\$510	\$750	\$1,500	100.00%	47.06%
Special Gifts & Transfers	\$14,245	\$2,227	\$2,315	\$5,250	\$2,500	(52.38%)	126.78%
Total Income	\$353,561	\$296,231	\$286,723	\$278,240	\$317,336	14.05%	(2.96%)
Pastoral Services	\$185,137	\$131,139	\$119,953	\$136,928	\$140,645	2.71%	14.15%
Staff Salaries	\$116,934	\$118,802	\$101,745	\$105,475	\$113,676	7.77%	3.67%
Property	\$34,344	\$27,367	\$30,862	\$33,850	\$36,315	7.28%	9.68%
Parish Programs	\$32,645	\$22,151	\$23,490	\$25,000	\$26,700	6.80%	6.43%
Total Expense	\$361,381	\$299,459	\$276,050	\$301,253	\$317,336	5.34%	9.13%
Net	\$(17,820)	\$(13,228)	\$10,673	\$(23,013)	\$-		

2023 Budget Preparation

Income	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	YTD Sept	Estimate	%Change to 2023 Budget
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$289,185	\$250,258	\$239,287	\$300,120	\$250,906	\$165,907.73	\$223,560.00	12.23%
Rental Income--Gross	\$20,755	\$14,722	\$15,916	\$14,520	\$15,450	\$11,677.00	\$15,500.00	(0.32%)
Fundraising Income--Net	\$22,972	\$5,816	\$5,834	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$1,955.62	\$7,500.00	33.33%
Endowment Interest	\$20,852	\$21,176	\$21,084	\$22,680	\$32,980	\$17,010.00	\$22,680.00	45.41%
Flowers--Income	\$2,956	\$728	\$1,777	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,013.50	\$3,000.00	33.33%
Christian Education--Gross Income	\$4,374	\$1,304	\$510	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$447.91	\$750.00	100.00%
Special Gifts (Unrestricted)	\$14,245	\$2,227	\$2,315	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$4,751.46	\$5,250.00	(52.38%)
TOTAL INCOME	\$375,339	\$296,231	\$286,723	\$358,320	\$317,336	\$203,763	\$278,240	14.05%
Pastoral Services								
Senior Pastor Salary	\$60,463	\$56,157	\$62,811	\$48,479	\$49,288	\$36,359.28	\$48,479.00	1.67%
Senior Pastor Housing Allowance	\$22,493	\$5,438	\$10,625	\$40,000	\$40,663	\$30,000.06	\$40,000.00	1.66%
Assistant Pastor Salary	\$22,519	\$18,499	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Assistant Pastor Housing Allowance	\$21,600	\$9,000	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Visitation Pastor Salary/Housing Allowance	\$21,746	\$22,865	\$23,089	\$22,573	\$-	\$16,926.00	\$19,530.00	(100.00%)
Pension	\$17,490	\$8,106	\$11,127	\$15,547	\$12,593	\$11,640.04	\$15,150.00	(16.88%)
Social Security	\$8,432	\$5,889	\$5,276	\$6,769	\$6,881	\$5,076.72	\$6,768.44	1.66%
Family Protection Plan	\$10,394	\$5,185	\$7,025	\$28,897	\$31,220	\$14,095.10	\$7,000.00	346.00%
TOTAL PASTORAL SERVICES	\$185,137	\$131,139	\$119,953	\$162,265	\$140,645	\$114,117	\$136,928	2.71%
Staff Salaries & Expense								
Building Maintenance/Custodian-Services	\$21,297	\$20,437	\$15,772	\$23,356	\$23,745	\$12,639.69	\$17,000.00	39.68%
Director of Music-Salary	\$28,120	\$28,894	\$29,183	\$29,183	\$29,353	\$19,829.50	\$27,125.00	8.21%
Financial Secretary-Salary	\$5,844	\$6,005	\$6,065	\$6,065	\$6,065	\$3,537.94	\$3,540.00	71.33%
Office Administrator-Salary	\$36,432	\$37,554	\$26,520	\$26,520	\$26,675	\$21,181.00	\$27,810.00	(4.08%)
Pianist-Salary	\$1,779	\$-	\$600	\$1,500	\$750	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	(37.50%)
Treasurer-Salary	\$8,282	\$8,510	\$8,595	\$8,595	\$8,595	\$6,446.34	\$8,595.00	0.00%
Stars Tech-Salary	\$1,679	\$6,850	\$6,931	\$8,469	\$8,610	\$7,276.24	\$9,700.00	(11.24%)
Mileage (Pastoral)	\$4,730	\$1,433	\$860	\$3,600	\$1,000	\$1,447.08	\$2,500.00	(60.00%)
Continuing Education	\$859	\$131	\$100	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$571.58	\$750.00	33.33%
Payroll Taxes (Social Security / Medicare)	\$7,912	\$8,987	\$7,119	\$7,817	\$7,883	\$5,424.45	\$7,255.00	8.65%
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES & EXPENSE	\$116,934	\$118,802	\$101,745	\$116,605	\$113,676	\$79,554	\$105,475	7.77%
Property								
Property Expense (501 Grape)	\$3,693	\$4,334	\$5,266	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$3,408.41	\$3,500.00	28.57%
Custodial Supplies	\$730	\$970	\$1,046	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,007.51	\$1,250.00	0.00%
Electric	\$6,217	\$4,029	\$3,914	\$7,200	\$6,000	\$4,217.92	\$6,000.00	0.00%
Insurance / Workman's Comp	\$9,185	\$8,865	\$7,060	\$7,000	\$7,500	\$5,173.00	\$7,000.00	7.14%
Maintenance	\$6,664	\$1,559	\$4,715	\$11,000	\$6,925	\$4,759.06	\$6,000.00	15.42%
Other Utilities	\$3,158	\$3,016	\$3,018	\$4,000	\$3,140	\$2,295.58	\$3,100.00	1.29%
UGI-Gas	\$4,697	\$4,594	\$5,843	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$4,169.60	\$7,000.00	0.00%
TOTAL PROPERTY	\$34,344	\$27,367	\$30,862	\$41,700	\$36,315	\$25,031	\$33,850	7.28%
Parish Programs								
Publications	\$2,849	\$2,518	\$2,370	\$4,000	\$2,200	\$1,982.07	\$2,750.00	(20.00%)
Christian Education	\$2,470	\$1,238	\$445	\$3,100	\$750	\$329.00	\$500.00	50.00%
Youth	\$823	\$178	\$-	\$1,400	\$250	\$20.50	\$100.00	150.00%
Flowers--Expense	\$3,040	\$772	\$964	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,584.78	\$3,000.00	33.33%
Health Care Committee	\$255	\$59	\$25	\$275	\$250	\$201.39	\$250.00	0.00%
Interior	\$16	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Music Ministry	\$1,792	\$1,745	\$2,176	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,088.63	\$2,400.00	0.00%
Office Expense	\$7,778	\$6,629	\$7,629	\$9,575	\$7,600	\$4,208.50	\$7,500.00	1.33%
Admin Expense	\$3,644	\$3,034	\$4,860	\$3,300	\$2,000	\$1,395.81	\$1,900.00	5.26%
STARs Committee	\$665	\$296	\$674	\$1,250	\$750	\$306.07	\$750.00	0.00%
Kitchen Supplies / ServSafe	\$302	\$34	\$-	\$400	\$250	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Kitchen Consumables (New)	\$7	\$105	\$-	\$200	\$150	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Celebrate Community	\$576	\$6	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Live Nativity	\$653	\$95	\$-	\$750	\$-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Evangelism	\$409	\$9	\$-	\$400	\$-	\$93.62	\$0.00	
Visitation	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$400	\$400	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%
Worship Expenses	\$1,415	\$1,404	\$791	\$1,600	\$1,000	\$882.10	\$1,000.00	0.00%
Offerings Expense	\$3,523	\$3,309	\$2,973	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,589.12	\$3,500.00	0.00%
Fundraising Tihs & Misc Missions	\$2,428	\$720	\$583	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$750.00	33.33%
Mission Expenses	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$200	\$200	\$100.00	\$200.00	0.00%
TOTAL PARISH PROGRAMS	\$32,645	\$22,151	\$23,490	\$37,750	\$26,700	\$16,782	\$25,000	6.80%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$369,060	\$299,459	\$276,050	\$358,320	\$317,336	\$235,484	\$301,253	5.34%
	\$6,279	\$(3,228)	\$10,673	\$-	\$-	\$(31,720)	\$(23,013)	

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
SEP 2022

Income	Electronic	9/4/2022	9/11/2022	9/18/2022	9/25/2022	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,366.17	\$2,586.00	\$2,732.00	\$2,307.00	\$2,871.91	\$16,863.08
Rental Income--Gross					\$1,254.50	\$1,254.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$402.91	\$163.50	\$(802.00)	\$422.00	\$186.41
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers			\$61.00	\$49.00	\$82.00	\$192.00
Christian Education	\$5.00					\$5.00
Special Gifts		\$18.69			\$206.81	\$225.50
Total	\$6,371.17	\$3,007.60	\$2,956.50	\$1,554.00	\$4,837.22	\$18,726.49

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$11,513.50	\$13,811.00	\$(2,297.50)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,022.45	\$9,891.00	\$(868.55)
Property	\$2,874.15	\$2,816.00	\$58.15
Parish Programs	\$2,342.00	\$3,093.00	\$(751.00)
Total	\$25,752.10	\$29,611.00	\$(3,858.90)

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$18,726.49	\$203,763.22
Total Expenses	\$25,752.10	\$235,483.69
Net	\$(7,025.61)	\$(31,720.47)

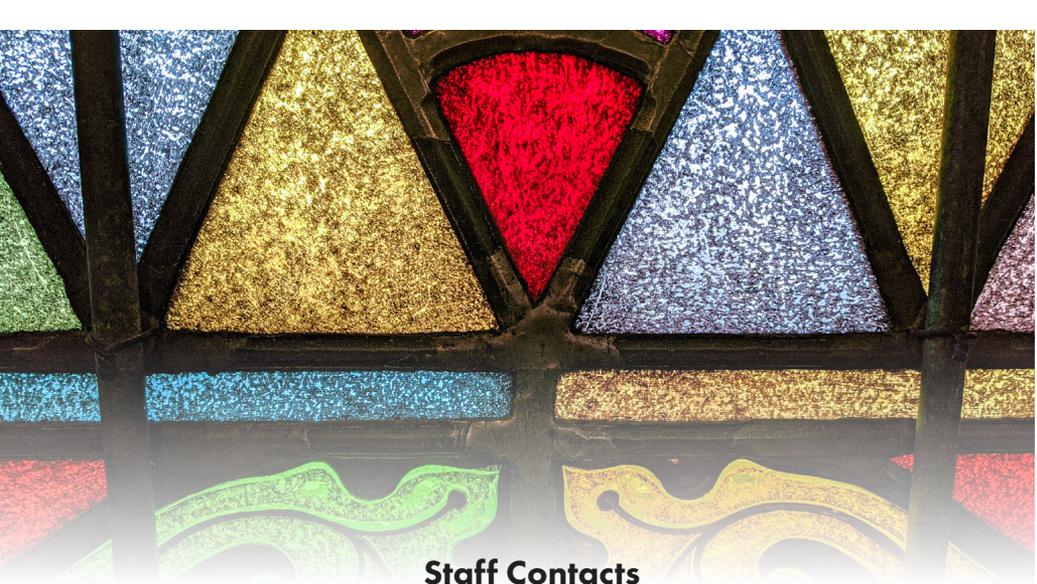
Mission Giving, SEP 2022

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$976.00
Ukrainian Relief	\$375.00
Crop Walk	\$60.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$270.00
Total	\$1,681.00

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

Account	Aug-22	Sep-22	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$36,700.35	\$17,187.85	\$(19,512.50)
Giant Card Funds	\$244.51	\$744.51	\$500.00
Weis Card Funds	\$3,185.00	\$1,510.00	\$(1,675.00)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$40,129.86	\$19,442.36	\$(20,687.50)
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$70,748.14	\$72,565.27	\$1,817.13
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,864.41	\$31,864.93	\$0.52
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$102,612.55	\$104,430.20	\$1,817.65
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$467,935.13	\$411,738.60	\$(56,196.53)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$610,677.54	\$535,611.16	\$(75,066.38)
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
TOTAL LIABILITES	\$(85,550.57)	\$(85,550.57)	\$-
NET FUND BALANCE	\$525,126.97	\$450,060.59	\$(75,066.38)





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November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 DST Ends 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>7 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p>8 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 10:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance Committee</p>	<p>9 9:00am Verso Chart with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day Church office closed</p>	<p>12 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>13 Newsletter Articles Due 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>14 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p>15 1:30pm Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p>16 9:00am Verso Chart with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>20 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Congregational Meeting 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm Lady PEPPS: Fox Hall</p>	<p>23 9:00am Verso Chart with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 5:30pm Dinner for Pastor Dave 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving Church office closed</p>	<p>25 Church office closed</p>	<p>26 9:00am Advent Sanctuary Decorations 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p>27 First Sunday in Advent 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>28 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p>29 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201</p>	<p>30 9:00am Verso Chart with Pastor Steve: Rm 201 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>			