

**COLLEEN  
KULHAMER**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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## Observing Women's History Month

*"I raise up my voice — not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back."*

**Malala Yousafzai**

The National Women's History Alliance is credited with the establishment of National Women's History Month in 1980. Women's history is a veritable treasure-trove of unknown stories. While March is Women's History month, there are far too many people who don't know that, let alone celebrate it. What is history other than our collective stories? Our story-telling sisters are essential in making history visible for themselves and their foremothers. Together, we can change the story landscape finally and forever.

*"As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it."*

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

St. John's UCC, Fullerton is grateful for women of faith who share the love of God in so many ways. Thank you for your gifts, your voices, your leadership and the boldness of your witness! We are so thankful for all you do to make St. John's a more-beloved community of hope!



Our Confirmation Class has been working on their individual statements of faith, sharing what they believe at this point in their faith journeys about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church and much more. I've been talking with people all across the four conferences



of Pennsylvania over the last several months. I was asked to be part of the Keystone Study Group, comprised of leaders from each of the conferences to study the possibility of becoming one Pennsylvania Conference of the UCC, and what it might mean for our future, our mission, our structure and our ministry as the Church. Many questions have come from those conversations as well as some

exciting possibilities for connecting congregations to greater options for ministry in this ever-changing faith landscape. I look forward to sharing more of this journey, and for us to hear from our confirmands in the coming months about how they experience the Church.

Recently a friend shared this poem with me. It rang so true. Perhaps all of us at some time in our lives have found the experience of church a bit challenging. I remember when I first came to a new church. It was hard. And then going through life I have been in many of these situations. How about you? I hope you find inspiration to "Be the Church" that shares the heart of God's love in more and more ways.

## **CHURCH IS HARD**

by Jacob Waldron

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend. When I've fought with my spouse because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

May our journey of inclusion help us to better use our voice to tell our stories – stories to inspire us, challenge us, and move us to break down barriers to hope so we might...

**"Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!"**

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor

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## On The Cover...



### **COLLEEN KULHAMER**

I have been a member of St. John's for a total of 20 years. It is my second family and I love being a part of such a special place.

My Colorado roots have always inspired me to spend a lot of time outdoors, exploring Gods beautiful world and taking photos along the way. I try to have a camera with me wherever I go.

St. John's has given me so many blessings, but three that give me exceptional joy - an outlet for my creative mind, a chance to enjoy and praise God with music, and a place to find caring lifetime friends! I worship, I love, I serve. No matter what!



St. John's UCC Fullerton  
is proud to welcome

### **The Moravian University Choir**

2pm Sunday, March 26

Please join us for  
a wonderful afternoon  
of music with light  
refreshments to follow.

All are welcome and  
invited to attend!

## Music at St. John's

This Lent, we as a congregation will be learning a new hymn, entitled "Healer of our Every Ill," written by Marty Haugen. In learning this hymn, it is important to know the backstory of why this hymn was even composed and why the comforting, yet challenging, text and haunting melody of "Healer of Our Every Ill" make it such a great contribution to modern hymnody.

Marty Haugen (b. 1950) wrote this meditative song during the winter of 1985-86. During this time, his family was staying at Holden Village, a retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger crashed shortly after takeoff.

According to Haugen: In addition to the loss of seven astronauts, this crash was a symbolic loss for Americans. *"At Holden we had very infrequent communication with the outside world, so we did not know of the disaster for a couple of days. When we got some information, we held a service in the evening together, and 'Healer of our Every Ill' was written as an expression for our community to grieve together"* (Daw, 2016, 795, quoting Westermeyer, 2010, 451).

Haugen uses the text of this hymn as a prayer for healing, not only of the body but also of the mind and spirit. The refrain of the hymn, "Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, And hope beyond our sorrow." is a powerful prayer and helps us express thoughts we find difficult to put into words. This hymn is also about joy, as evidenced in stanza two with the words, "your grace is still unfolding." Stanza three's text, "Give us strength to love each other," uses language that urges us, even in times of sorrow and fear, to show love and kindness to our sisters and brothers in Christ. The last verse of the hymn asks us to teach Christ's way of healing and to fill each heart with compassion.

Marty Haugen was born December 30, 1950, in Wanamingo, Minnesota. Haugen studied piano, violin, trombone, and organ through high school, and he played organ in the Lutheran church where his family attended. He holds degrees from Luther College and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and participated in

graduate work in Pastoral Studies at what is now Luther Seminary and the St. Paul School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas (Canterbury Dictionary).

His hymns have become very popular and can be found in many hymnals today. The majority of his compositions are published by GIA publications, including two settings of the liturgy for Lutheran use, "Holden Evening Prayer" and "Now the Feast and Celebration." Haugen has composed numerous choral arrangements, sacred songs, and hymns, including "Gather Us In," "Eye Hath Not Seen," "We Are Many Parts," "Shepherd Me, O God," and "Awake!" Currently, he writes contemporary hymns and liturgies for the Lutheran church and holds a position as composer in residence at Mayflower Community Church in Minneapolis.

Musically Yours,  
Patrick Sandt

## **Good Friday Tenebrae: Service of the Shadows**

The re-telling of our Lord's Crucifixion through Prayer and Song.



**Save the Date - Friday, April 7th, 2023**

## Youth Activities for Sunday Mornings and More

Tyler Shankweiler is our newest Youth Deacon serving in 2023! He is looking for other youth and adults to get in on the conversation to create something new for St. John's Youth. Many times the busy pace of school, extra-curricular and family activities fill up schedules once Confirmation activities conclude. We want the Youth of St. John's to enjoy a warm and welcoming place to be with each other on Sunday mornings. Currently, ALL Youth are welcome to participate in individual class sessions with the Confirmands (6th, 7th & 8th graders) during the 9:30am hour in Youth Room, 301. However, we'd like to create something more, specifically for our 6th-12th graders not currently involved in confirmation!



Join Tyler and caring adults committed to supporting our Youth as we visit over the next several weeks during the Sunday Social Hour in Fox Hall. Come have something to drink and some delicious morning treats and enjoy conversation with each other around the tables. Plans are also being made to have a monthly youth event, and of course, there will be great food to share! If you're interested in taking part in something new, please visit with our newest Youth Deacon, Tyler Shankweiler, or Consistory President, Bill Fink, or Brian Fisher. Let's get the party started and build our relationships! Show your...

**"No Matter What!"** spirit as we grow together.



## Blessed to Be a Blessing

### WE NEED THE BLESSING OF YOUR LEADERSHIP

#### Children's Faith Formation

We are continuing to grow our Faith Formation involvement for our children! We've grown from 5 to 7 to 9, and now between 9-12 children who are seeking our blessing each week!

We are grateful for those who have stepped up to lead and assist in this vital outreach to our younger disciples, and as was shared in our Annual Meeting, more helpers are needed. "Blessed to Be a Blessing" offers a weekly time of ritual through our sacred circle, a Bible story and craft and some other goodies for children, ages 4 - 6th grade. This group gathers in Room 101 at 9:30am. Adult leaders and helpers are needed for March - May and beyond as we seek to sustain and expand this vital ministry to our youngest followers of Christ. We are already talking about next step options for the summer and a possible Vacation Bible School partnership.

Please visit with Rev. Becca Stephens or anyone in the Education Task Force, stop by the table display when you come to worship, or contact the church office to learn more about how you can help with this vital ministry with our young people. Visit the class and see what takes place, then volunteer for one Sunday a month to help with the second quarter of 2023.

## **Donations through QR code**

### **Become an "Automatic Contributor"**

Currently, 49 giving units participating.

Using the St. John's QR code for your giving or other contributions is easy! You can contribute to the mission and ministry of St. John's using this simple code with your cell phone camera. You'll be guided to our website contribution page where your secure contributions and payments may be made. After your first time login creation, you'll be able to access further payments with ease. You may also set up recurring online "automatic contributions" and not have to worry about your regular giving again!

Thank you for your generous support each month. January contributions saw us contribute beyond our "break even" minimum need. We still have significant ways to grow, but it is a great step in the right direction.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee strongly encourages becoming an "automatic contributor" in your support of these ministries. We still have only 49 giving units utilizing this service. It makes a tremendous difference in the monthly cashflow when we know the contributions will be coming to meet our expenses. You can make this happen!

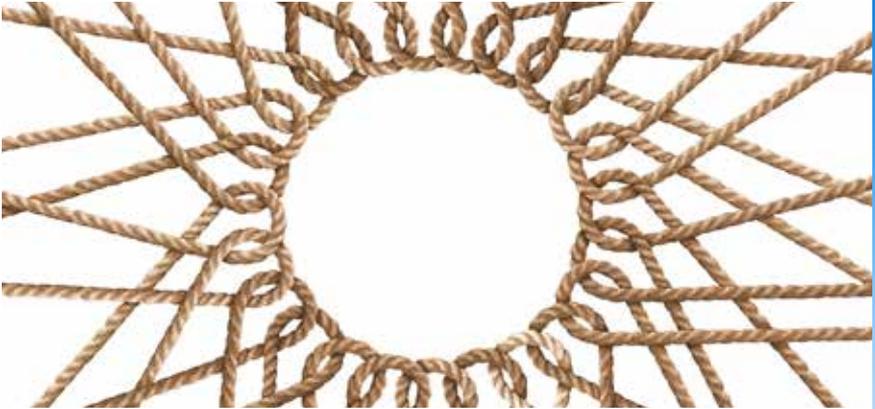
We offer the ease of using the QR Code found in our worship bulletin, on the worship slides, and in other locations around the church! If you need help getting set up or want to know more, please contact the Church Office or visit with Tom Moyer or Rev. Steve Davis. Become an "Automatic Contributor" today and help the church no matter where you may be on a Sunday morning!



**Have you  
tried it?**

## SAA Recovery Support Group

In late October 2022, St. John's received a request from a local resident and middle school teacher asking if the church would be willing to provide space for a small group seeking to establish a local recovery group seeking to work on issues of sexual addiction from a faith-based perspective. After meeting with the Sr. Pastor, affirming support of our Safe Church policy and securing their own insurance for meeting on our property, the Consistory approved the use of meeting space at their November meeting. St. John's UCC can be proud that we are providing safe space for people to gather toward their common work in recovery. Just as we and many other congregations have provided meeting space for a variety of recovery support groups, we are glad to share the opportunity for SAA to meet at St. John's on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.



Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA) is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so they may overcome their sexual addiction and help others recover from their sexual addiction or dependency. This faith-based 12-step recovery fellowship, based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, is helping people find wholeness, support and transformation. Open to people of all gender expressions, if you or someone you know would benefit from this recovery opportunity, you can find out more about the specifics of the organization here: <https://saa-recovery.org>. You may also contact the office for the local group leader's contact information. Thank you for your support in creating safe places for people to come together for recovery.

## Gift Card Bingo Returns March 17th

**“Top o’ the mornin’ to ye!”**

Tis I, Shamrock Fitzpatrick, the mischievous leprechaun, inviting ye to join in the fun at our St. Patrick's Day Bingo celebration. This evening is sure to be a night filled with laughter, good cheer, and of course, plenty of bingo. With doors opening at 6pm sharp, ye won't want to miss a single moment of the excitement.

Oh me lucky charms!  
Bingo be a rollicking game of chance, with treasures to be claimed. Ye never know when yer number might come up and ye'll be shouting “BINGO!” to the skies!.

Do ye have a bit of the Irish luck on yer side? Then grab a few tickets for ye and yer mates, and let the games begin!

We could use a bit of yer help in making this evening a success. If ye be feeling kind, lend a hand as a volunteer. We need kitchen help, friendly faces on the floor, and various other duties to ensure the night runs smoothly. And if ye have a gift to spare, why not donate it to our "Tricky Tray" auction? We're looking for items valued at \$20-\$30, so get yer thinking caps on and show us what ye've got in store!

And for those who want to go the extra mile, why not sponsor a gift card with a donation of \$50? Or whip up 2 lbs. of delicious hamburger BBQ, a pot of me favorite macaroni & cheese, a few cans of Coca Cola products, or some tasty baked goods to sell? Every little bit helps and we're grateful for yer support.

So come decked out in yer finest greens, and let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! The luck of the Irish will be with us all, and who knows? Ye might just be the lucky one to take home a top-notch prize. Let Tom O'Moyer or the church office know if ye can help, and I'll see ye there!

**Sláinte and happy celebrating!**



## Delicious “Fun-Raising”

Everyone in this church I know likes to eat and here is an easy way to have a delicious meal at home with little bother: our Semi-Annual Pastie and Fruit Pie Sale. The prices have remained the same as for our sale this past October. It’s your choice of the following: 12 Ounce Pasties: Beef With and Without Onions, Chicken, Sausage, Ham, Veggie Melt and Spinach at a price of \$7. If this sounds good, the following 6 Ounce Fruit Pies are also available: Apple, Cherry and Blueberry at price of \$4. You will find an order form on the table in the rear of the Church. Make your payment to St John’s UCC Fullerton and return the Payment and Order Form prior to March 26. The pickup will be scheduled for April 14 from 2-4pm in Fox Hall via the Elevator Entrance or on Sunday, April 16 after each of the Services in Fox Hall. I can already smell them cooking.

Looking for something good to have during the cold winter months or save for your Easter Dinner? We have some of St John’s delicious filling. They are frozen and easy to prepare. We have some with onion and some without. We are having a final sale at the price of \$4 per 2 pound container. Contact the Church at (610) 264-8421 and we can reserve your order or see me before or after the Second Service on Sundays and I will be happy to help you with your filling order immediately.

Gary Weaver



## **Staying Healthy & Showing Care**

The cold chill of winter will begin to turn to warmer days, and with them, we continue to promote healthy practices for the congregation to mitigate the spread of any illnesses. Thank you for using the hand sanitizer bottles, placed throughout the main floor of the sanctuary and in classrooms. Thank you for protecting yourself and others by getting vaccinated and “boosted” with variants that continue with COVID. Thank you for staying home when you need to do so and participating in worship online.

We can take comfort in knowing that we are a community of support for one another. We understand that the last few years have been difficult and we may be feeling tired and frustrated by the continuing need to take precautions. As we reflect on our practices of worship and sharing our gifts, let us also remember that these measures are not only about our own preferences, but the well-being of our whole community. We encourage everyone to have open dialogue and to continue to discern together how we can best be a supportive and healthy community.

## **Creating A New Ritual**

### WATER GATHERING REMINDER on Vacations

Thanks to those who have already been bringing small bottles of water from your travels in 2022-2023. New small bottles have arrived and will be handed out during the season of Lent and on Easter Sunday, for you to collect a sample of water from your journeys across the country and around the world in 2023. Bring it back 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.

## Congregational Caring and Support

At our Annual Meeting, Pastor Steve shared plans being created by our Consistory to encourage support from our Elders and Consistory leadership in strengthening our ministry of congregational caring.

Our Visitation Committee serves powerfully, reaching out to our homebound with cards, calls and visits on a regular basis. We are looking for more people to be part of the difference we make together. St. John's has 346 family units. We don't always see them in worship or participating in activities as we did in years past, and we want to change that.

We ask for you to be part of the conversation as we extend our care to those who are not able to be present, those who worship and participate online - cannot be present, yet still cherish their relationships made here.

Pastor Steve is currently the only minister we have to make hospital calls, as well as share home communion each month. With the change in leadership since December, we have not been able to make the home visits for communion as we had hoped. If you're a St. John's Elder, or just love sharing God's love with people, and are willing to help with this great ministry of relationship, please contact the Church Office. Pastor Steve is creating a simple ritual and St. John's will provide baskets of communion elements to share with our homebound and those in care facilities.

Thank you for your faithful support of this great ministry.



## Friendship Bible Class



This is your invitation to come join the Friendship Bible Class. This Adult Faith Formation Class (formerly Adult Sunday School) meets every Sunday (except in the summer months) at 9:30am in Room 201. Different members teach each week and offer a variety of topics including Bible stories, scripture, parables, current events, Bible trivia, and much more. Stop in for a cup of coffee and refreshments and join in the discussion. For more information, contact Tom Moyer at (610) 432-3372 or email [tommoyer54@gmail.com](mailto:tommoyer54@gmail.com)



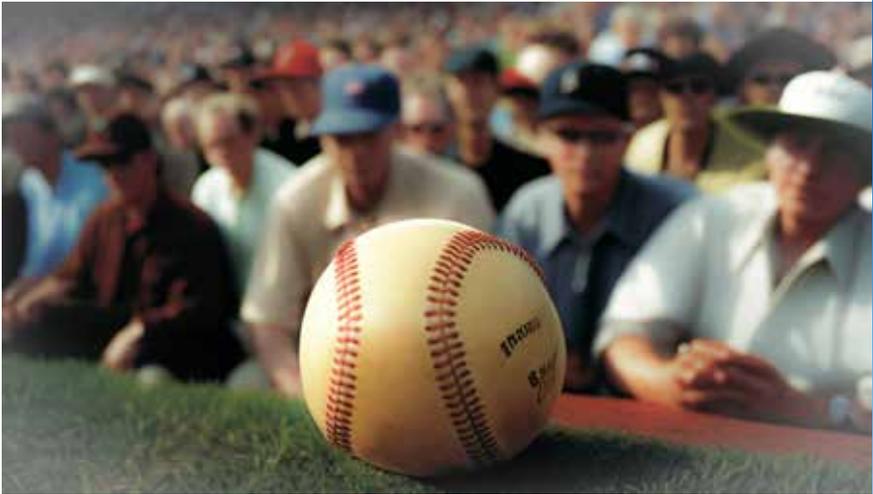
## Ministry Areas Posters

Have you stopped by the table in the Parlor before or after worship to see the posters shared by our various areas of ministry and committees? At our Annual Meeting, our ministry areas shared updates about the great work they are doing, that we are doing together, and invited all of us to participate in leadership.

Each Sunday in February and March, two ministry areas will be “featured” on the table in the Parlor with representatives from those groups there to answer any questions you may have about their work and how you might participate. Please stop by each Sunday and take a look!

## IronPigs Game Scheduled

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand for the IronPigs vs. Buffalo Bisons game. Game day is Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05pm. Cost will be \$13 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ball park credit, and raffle ticket. While it is too early to know of any giveaways, we know that hotdogs will again be \$1. So, mark your calendar—we won't be taking reservations and payment until Spring. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [crazzler@aol.com](mailto:crazzler@aol.com)



## Sundays Social Hour Continues - 9:30am in Fox Hall

We continue to encourage building relationships and enjoying social time together between the two worship services. Sign up this week to host a Sunday Social Hour. Different individuals, ministry groups, and Faith Formation classes are invited to "Host" a social hour. Use the sign-up sheet in the Parlor or contact the Church Office if you, your class, group, or committee would like to host one of our Sunday Social Hour events! If you're 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 meet in the middle!

## Easter & Spring Craft Sale

Our Crafters Group has been busy. We have Easter items for sale—bunnies, chicks, and baskets plus a whole lot more. Please look for our table in the lounge area on Sundays, March 12 and March 19, before and after each worship service. We will also have available, among other things, kitchen towels, table runners, bowl cozies, clothes pin bags, cookbooks, and 12-Bean soup mix. Choose from a large selection of our baby items and doll sweaters. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) if you need any items delivered.



## 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 March 4 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](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com)



# CREATE PLAYSPACE

WITH THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to share an opportunity with you. In my last four months in office, I am going to host a series of online discussions about subject matters that I think are of great interest to the life and health of the church. I am calling it “Create PlaySpace with the President.”

Over the next four months, on 8 Wednesdays from 1pm ET/10am PT and for one hour, we will gather in virtual space to discuss with each other vital perspectives and emerging strategies in key areas of our shared life.

Each week, a key leader in the area we will be discussing will begin the hour with a brief presentation to try and prime the pump for the discussion that will follow.

All voices will be welcome. You will want to participate whether you have something important to contribute or whether you are just curious about hearing what others are thinking. It promises to be interesting, engaging, insightful – and our hope is also very helpful.

[Please find the dates, times, subjects, and presenters here.](#) I hope you are able to join us for at least a few, if not all, of these. We live in an interdependent world. We need each other. And we are discovering new ways of engaging with each other in spaces that were not available to us a short while ago. By taking advantage of these newly developing tools and resources, we can create new capacities for learning, exploring, and crafting new pathways to future vitality.

I look forward to seeing you in our PlaySpace.

Shalom,  
**Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer**  
 General Minister and President

**Worship And Social Opportunities**  
**In February/March For Lent**  
**Lenten "Soup & Bread" Dinners!**



✓ **ASH WEDNESDAY (Start of the Season of Lent) with Rev. Cliff Herring**  
**"ASH & DASH" - 8-9am & 4-5pm**

Come to the St. John's parking area on the South side of Grape St. to receive ashes and a blessing to begin your Lenten spiritual journey. Help welcome others to share with us in this season of reflection, bringing our questions to God. Ashes will be shared in an evening worship service as well.

✓ **ASH WEDNESDAY with Rev. Gary Boracco**  
**"Soup & Bread" Dinners (6pm) and Worship (7pm)**

Gather together in Fox Hall on Wednesday evenings in Lent and enjoy a variety of "Soup & Bread" options for our shared meal! Sign up sheets to bring a pot of soup or bread will be available in the Church Parlor, or you can call or email the Church Office to sign up.

Each Wednesday evening, we will have a meal together, followed by a devotional program and music (Feb. 22, Mar. 8 and 22) or participating in the Penn NE Conference UCC program study with other UCC congregations and individuals (Mar. 1, 15 and 29).

This will be available through Zoom with the Link coming soon. Look on the church website and in worship bulletins for more information.

## Collecting Easter Baskets for Youth



At the Annual Meeting, 13 baskets were given out to members of the congregation to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, knickknacks, or whatever else is going to make it an “eggstravagant” Easter basket! The baskets will then be delivered by [Pinebrook Family Answers](#)’ High Fidelity



Wraparound Process to youth in the Lehigh Valley between the ages of 8-18 years old who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) is a team-based planning process providing coordinated family-driven care to meet the complex

needs of youth/families who are involved with multiple systems and at risk of placement. All baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, April 2. Contact Emma Rarich at (610) 462-6777 or email [ebfox@live.com](mailto:ebfox@live.com) if you have any questions or need further information.





**POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS**

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. The evening's program is called "Nordic Virtual Sights" with tour guide DonnaLee Yeatts. Ladies please join us as we take a relaxing virtual vacation together and journey to Norway, Iceland, Sweden and Denmark. If you haven't had the opportunity to be a part of this special caring group of women, come see what we are all about. We laugh, we cry, we learn, we share and we eat! Please use the elevator entrance and we will see you there!

### **New "Kitchen Crew" Forming**

Kenda Catalini and Colleen Kulhamer have decided to co-chair the church kitchen project. They are in the process of gathering a team together that we can call on whenever there is a function that requires "Kitchen Crew" services. Kenda will be responsible for ordering needed staples such as coffee supplies and food items and Colleen will be responsible for paper goods. Kitchen rules will be set up and posted for those using the kitchen for their events. We want to encourage people to use the kitchen and also keep it in good shape. Events such as bingos and other group activities will be staffed by those involved in the event or group. The "Kitchen Crew" will be available for events like our potluck meals and other gatherings.

THANK YOU Kenda and Colleen for stepping up to lead and support ministry at St. John's!

### **"Hosts" Still Needed!**

We are still looking for volunteers to "Host" the Sunday Morning Social Hour in Fox Hall between the morning worship service, and our Lenten Soup & Bread Dinners. Please sign up on the table in the Parlor.

## It's Time To Share

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

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

[www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing](http://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing)





## **Study the Lent/Easter Scriptures with Verso Chat Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 9am AND ?

Would you like to enhance your experience of the Lent and Easter seasons? You are invited to join the weekly Verso-Chat Bible Study on Wednesday mornings as we look at the weekly readings of scripture we share in worship. 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. Each week is its own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words.

Would an afternoon or evening study better fit your life schedule? Pastor Steve is open to hosting a second group to better accommodate people's varying schedules and offer more opportunities to get connected with God and each other. If you'd be interested in being part of a new group, please send Pastor Steve an email [sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org) and let him know what days and times of the week might best work for you.

Our current group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am 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>

### **Becca's Kale Salad**

- 6-7 cups chopped kale
  - 3 green onions
  - 1/2 C couscous, cooked
  - 1/4 C sunflower seed
  - 1/2 C slivered almonds, caramelized in 2 T sugar
- 1) Remove the ribs.
  - 2) Chop the kale.
  - 3) Sprinkle lightly with salt.
  - 4) Massage the kale.  
Scrunch, release, scrunch, release.  
Repeat until the kale is fragrant and dark green (30 seconds).
  - 5) Dress the kale.  
Drizzle in a bold dressing and massage that into the leaves so the kale is lightly and evenly coated with dressing (one part vinegar to three parts olive oil).

## Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Milton Focht	Karen Moyer
Anita Beil	Ron Glass	Frank Nolt
Clarence Biehn	Roberta Haberern	Marilyn Piskula
Jim Carr	Lucille Hicks	Marietta Seyfried
Carl Case	Geraldine Keim	Eleanor Smith
Jean Coombe	Adrienne Kiesbar	Bert Smith
Sandra Diefenderfer	Emma Repp Kuczek	Peggy Snyder
Shirley Downing	Elaine Lentz	Nancy Weaver
Susan Felegy	Jean Litzenberger	Bonnie Weikel
Jean Fischl	Dale Millham	

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



### Deadline for April Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the April newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to our new address - [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, March 12.

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

Authors: some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:  
<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

## March Birthdays

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

3/1 .....	William Dovico		Patricia Warmkessel
3/2 .....	Lois Gillette Nicholas Santee Lisa Weiner	3/16 .....	Michael Jordan Eleanor Smith
3/5 .....	Carol Geroulo	3/18 .....	Rion McNicholas
3/6 .....	Patricia Bendekovits Fern Hozza Jason Loch Cynthia Reck Marilyn Reid	3/19 .....	Conrad Beck Donald Schneck
3/7 .....	Sandra Heffelfinger	3/20 .....	Keith Kaider Tina Madaus Maggie Marinkovits Melissa Mendiolina
3/8 .....	Michelle Gutekunst	3/22 .....	Michael Leibensperger
3/10 .....	Judith Carr Mark Moll	3/23 .....	George Weaver
3/11 .....	Alyssa Beckwith	3/27 .....	Halle Beck Jeffrey Eichman
3/12 .....	Ethan Brobst Paul Geissingar	3/29 .....	Lucille Hicks Donald Miller Jr
3/13 .....	Rev Dr Becky Beckwith Gianni Russo	3/30 .....	Bradley Beckwith
3/15 .....	Maura Rarich	3/31 .....	Susan Felegy Shepard Rarich Lord



## March Wedding Anniversaries

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

Robert & Nancy Dougherty

3/3/1979

Timothy & Karen Christman

3/5/1977

Matthew & Judith Sommer

3/6/1999

Dewey & DonnaLee Yeatts

3/9/1991

Dale & Susan Brinker

3/24/1979



## Church Chuckle



Our church accountants will be giving up spreadsheets for 40 days and 40 nights. It's going to be completely Excel Lent.



## **Earthquake in Turkey and Syria**

### Here's How You Can Help!

The news continues to unfold about the massive earthquake and aftershocks that struck Turkey and Syria before dawn on February 6. The magnitude 7.8 quake, centered in a heavily populated area but felt as far away as Israel, Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus, collapsed buildings and buried thousands of people in the rubble. The death toll continues to rise—over 35,000 as we go to press. Immediately, UCC National issued an appeal to help recovery efforts. UCC has reached out to partners in the region to determine the needs in the area and ways in which the UCC can be part of the response through Global Ministries with the Disciples of Christ, ACT Alliance, and Global H.O.P.E.

All donations will be deposited into the UCC's International Emergency Fund designated for "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Please send your donations into the church office or via text or [online giving](#). Be sure to include "Earthquake Response" in the memo section. Special offering envelopes can also be found on the table in the lounge area at church.

## Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of March, we are collecting canned fruits, canned vegetables, and 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. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or via on-line or text.

### We Need Your Shoes

Nothing to Buy! Nothing to Sell! Simply clean out your closet!



We are collecting your gently used or new shoes—all sizes and varieties—pairs only. We are helping Friedens UCC in Oley, PA (Berks County) sponsor a two-week Mission Rebuild Trip to Peru in August to help the Fuller Center for Housing rebuild houses. We will accept any kind of shoes i.e. sneakers, sandals, boots, dress shoes, slippers. The goal is to collect 5,000 pounds of shoes. For every pound we collect, 50¢ per pound will be given back to sponsor the trip. The shoes are refurbished and sent to Third World countries.

Please pair your shoes by tying the laces together or by using a rubber band. You will find a collection basket in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) if you need to have the shoes picked up. If you are interested in going on this Mission Rebuild Trip, you can also contact Carol for further details. Deadline to receive shoes is Sunday, April 9.

### How Did St. John’s Family Do?

Recent Outreaches	Jan 2023	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,082.00	\$1,082.00	\$1,229.80	\$1,410.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 790.00	\$ 790.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 120.00
Ukraine Relief Fund	\$ 185.00	\$ 185.00	N/A	N/A

## Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative's Community Meals

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 — Dine-in Only. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday, 3/5	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Tuesday, 3/21	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Sunday, 4/2	PALM SUNDAY – No Meal Today	--	--
Tuesday, 4/18	Redeemed Christian Church of God	5 N. Third St., Coplay	(610) 262-8993

## Ukraine Relief Fund Update

The UCC has collected almost \$3 million from 5,000 UCC donors through its emergency appeal for the people of Ukraine. On January 27, UCC church executives left on a trip to the region to see what their needs are and how faith partners are responding using UCC gifts. The UCC delegation will spend 14 days abroad with historic partners and churches in Hungary, Greece, and southwest Ukraine. The group will also spend 3 days in Moldova as a partner of Church World Service. This is the first UCC trip to the region since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. While this delegation is in Europe, they are also in touch with our partners in the regions affect by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

On January 21, 2023, Russian forces launched a missile attack that hit a 9-story apartment building in Dnipro. Because it was a weekend afternoon, many people were home at the time, making it one of the worst attacks on civilians since the beginning of the war. The World Central Kitchen arrived just minutes after the horrific attack with meals, hot tea, and water for impacted residents and rescue crews. The entire city came together to support one another in the aftermath as rescuers worked tirelessly to clear debris and find survivors. The WCK tent on site was not only a place for people to

eat and warm up—it became a volunteer headquarters where both residents and search and rescue teams could get medicine, warm clothes, and any other help they might need. As the situation in the Ukraine is continually evolving, WCK teams adapt to meet new needs, bring hot meals and food kits to the front line and recently-liberated communities, and has now set up response efforts in the areas affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

As the war ravages on one year later, our help is still needed. The Russian invasion displaced 13 million people and left a trail of destruction and loss of life. We are happy to report that for the month of January, \$185 was sent to UCC National for the Ukraine Relief Fund. Donations in February will go to World Central Kitchen. Donations for March will go to UCC National.

### **Update on Other Outreaches**

Thank you for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk. From throughout the community and as of January 24, 2023, \$32,179.21 was raised to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe. As a result of everyone's faithful efforts, the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen will each receive \$4000 for their vital ministries.

Be sure to read in this newsletter the many thank yous we received from various organizations and charities. The monetary donations they received from St. John's came from our 10% tithing from fundraising events, profit from our Crafters sales, and monetary gifts for "Operation Santa's" Mitten Tree Project.



## Thank You

Thank you for the very generous \$680 contribution in support of our Holiday Gift Drive. Your generosity will help us continue to provide crisis intervention and outcome-driven programs to more than 14,000 youth and families annually. As one of PA's largest and most experienced providers in services for youth experiencing homelessness and other traumatic situations, our services include prevention and advocacy efforts and behavioral and mental health counseling. Your thoughtfulness will help us ensure our ongoing ability to build brighter futures for the youth and families we serve. We are most grateful for your gift and support of our mission.

Sincerely,  
Christina J. Schoemaker, Senior VP  
Development, Grants & Marketing  
Valley Youth House

As the Church of Christ, we have not forgotten our sacred vocation to love our neighbor. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA has established a charity fund for Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine. And you've so generously responded! I prayerfully express our sincere gratitude for your generosity of \$220 for your participation in this outreach appeal. Thank you for showing your love and support to those who are suffering in our ancestral homeland Ukraine. Continue to pray for peace!

With prayers,  
Brother Daniel, Archbishop  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Thank you so much for your donation of \$368.11 to Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. Your continued support means so much to our agency and the thousands of survivors and families we serve every year. With the need for our services at an all-time high, it is because of your generosity that we can continue to offer client-centered, trauma-informed services at no cost for survivors in their healing journey. We will use this donation to further build our comprehensive programs and services in order to meet a variety of needs that are best suited for each individual. Thank you for standing with us and believing in the importance and necessity of our work for all survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse. We truly appreciate you!

In peace,  
Lori Sywensky, Executive Director  
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

Thank you for your generous donation of \$566 to the Sixth Street Shelter. We appreciate the partnership of friends like you as we help families improve their stability, self-sufficiency, resilience, and quality of life. The Shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness for over 30 years. Last fiscal year the Shelter was able to provide safe shelter to 106 families consisting of 373 people, 232 of whom were children. During their approximate 60-day stay at the Shelter, families met regularly with a counselor to develop and work toward self-sufficiency to end their cycle of homelessness. You are an important part of our work, and we are grateful for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Weissmann,  
Development Officer  
Sixth Street Shelter

We are grateful to the PNEC and its UCC members for supporting Phoebe Ministries this past holiday season. The outpouring of monetary contributions, beautifully wrapped gifts, and thoughtful cards received from our UCC communities in support of our holiday programs, Giving Tree, and Operation Santa were greatly appreciated. Only through the generosity of others were we able to ensure every resident at Phoebe had a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and ongoing support of our seniors!

With sincere gratitude,  
Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope,  
Director Pastoral Care and Education  
Phoebe Ministries

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$368.12 to Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center! Your generosity allows us to provide high-impact programs, services, and advocacy to celebrate and strengthen the LGBTQ+ community of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Thanks to donors like you, we are already off to an incredibly strong start this year as we continue education on Covid prevention; provide a safe space for youth; support our 17 monthly community-building groups and supportive services; offer world-class arts and culture programs; and advocate efforts for our community needs.

With gratitude for your generosity,  
Bill McGlenn, Interim Executive Director  
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

# QUESTIONNAIRE:

What types of activities would you enjoy and want to attend at a St. John's monthly event?

How often would you attend a monthly event at St. John's?

Which past events at St. John's have you attended and enjoyed the most?

Would you be interested in attending outdoor events at the pavilion during the warmer months?

Which events do you think would gather the most people from the neighborhood around the church?

Are there any specific themes or types of events that you would like to see at St. John's in the future?

How would you prefer to learn about upcoming events at St. John's? (e.g. email, bulletin, social media, text, newsletter)

Are there any activities or events you would like to see that are not listed above?

Are there any age or interest specific activities or events you would like to see?

Are there any other suggestions or feedback you would like to provide about a monthly event at St. John's?

Would you be interested in helping organize an event?



These questions are also in an online form here:

<https://forms.gle/sGs341rBcZiTxL8Y6>

## Consistory 2023

Elders (Spiritual Council): Bill Fink (President) 2023

DonnaLee Yeatts (Vice President) 2024, and Wendy Fox 2025

Deacons/Elders: 2023 - Janet Ebert

Brenda Pascoe

Margaret Young

2023 Youth Deacon - Tyler Shankweiler

2024 - Joy Gravely, Wayne Lichtenwalner, Kim Hillegass (E)

2025 - Sharon Antrim, Paul Raszler (E), Kathy Roth



**St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances**  
**Jan 2023**

<b>Income</b>	Electronic	1/2/2023	1/9/2023	1/16/2023	1/23/2023	1/30/2023	<b>Total</b>
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,845.03	\$2,410.00	\$5,337.00	\$2,945.00	\$3,896.00	\$3,125.25	\$24,558.28
Rental Income--Gross						\$150.00	\$150.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$141.00			\$100.00		\$241.00
Endowment Interest			\$5,791.00				\$5,791.00
Flowers			\$100.00		\$50.00	\$25.00	\$175.00
Christian Education	\$10.00		\$84.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$204.00
Special Gifts							\$-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,855.03</b>	<b>\$2,551.00</b>	<b>\$11,312.00</b>	<b>\$2,975.00</b>	<b>\$4,086.00</b>	<b>\$3,340.25</b>	<b>\$31,119.28</b>

<b>Expense Summary</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Pastoral Services		\$10,441.96	\$11,571.00	\$(1,129.04)
Staff Salaries & Expense		\$7,377.41	\$9,364.50	\$(1,987.09)
Property		\$2,596.20	\$3,218.00	\$(621.80)
Parish Programs		\$2,213.35	\$2,555.50	\$(342.15)
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$22,628.92</b>	<b>\$26,709.00</b>	<b>\$(4,080.08)</b>

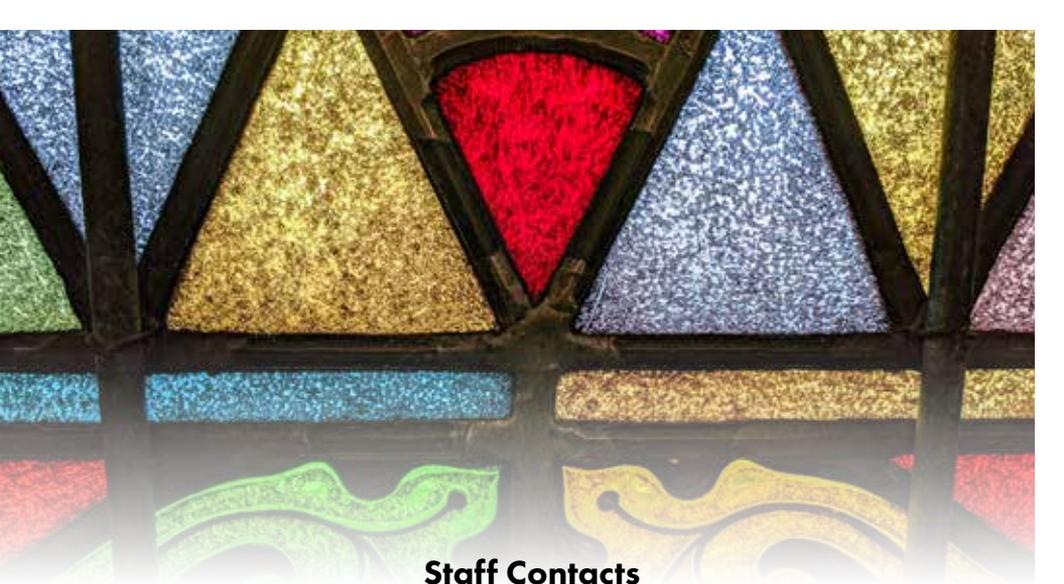
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
Total Income	<b>\$31,119.28</b>	<b>\$31,119.28</b>
Total Expenses	<b>\$22,628.92</b>	<b>\$22,628.92</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$8,490.36</b>	<b>\$8,490.36</b>

**Mission Giving, Jan 2023**

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,082.00
UCC Ukrainian Relief	\$185.00
Whitehall Food Bank	\$790.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,057.00</b>

**St John's UCC Fullerton**  
**Fund Balances**  
**For Month Ending, Jan 2023**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Jan-23</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Checking Account--KNBT	\$30,029.41	\$37,471.85	\$7,442.44
Giant Card Funds	\$389.51	\$1,514.51	\$1,125.00
Weis Card Funds	\$1,345.00	\$720.00	\$(625.00)
sub-total			
General Fund			
Assets	\$31,763.92	\$39,706.36	\$7,942.44
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$74,688.04	\$76,715.91	\$2,027.87
Restricted/Property Money Market	\$31,865.74	\$31,866.01	\$0.27
sub-total			
Restricted			
Assets	\$106,553.78	\$108,581.92	\$2,028.14
Endowment Fund--KNBT	\$441,861.85	\$462,481.04	\$20,619.19
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$580,179.55</b>	<b>\$610,769.32</b>	<b>\$30,589.77</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(85,066.29)	\$(84,960.93)	\$105.36
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES</b>	<b>\$(85,066.29)</b>	<b>\$(84,960.93)</b>	<b>\$105.36</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$495,113.26</b>	<b>\$525,808.39</b>	<b>\$30,695.13</b>



## Staff Contacts

**Rev. Steve Davis**  
Senior Pastor

[sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org)

**Patrick Sandt**  
Director of Music Ministry / Organist

[sjfmusic@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfmusic@sjuccf.org)

**Alison Berger Boor**  
Office Administrator

[sjfofficesecretary@sjuccf.org](mailto:sjfofficesecretary@sjuccf.org)

**Sue Weldner**  
Treasurer

[sbweldner@gmail.com](mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com)

**Thomas and Emilie Moyer**  
Financial Secretary

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**Michelle Gutekunst**  
Worship Tech  
Coordinating Custodian

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**Christine Bach**  
Custodian

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[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org)

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052 (610) 264-8421

# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>5</b> 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>7</b> 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>	<p><b>1</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Sene 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper: Fox Hall 7:00pm Lenten Program-Conference 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6:30pm SAA's Committee Mtg 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:30am Men's breakfast: Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>12</b> Newsletter Articles due 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>14</b> 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Sene: Rm 201 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper: Fox Hall 7:00pm Lenten Devotions 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:00pm Gift Card Bingo</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>19</b> 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p><b>20</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Choir</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 10:00am Retired Clergy 6:30pm Lady PEERS</p>	<p><b>22</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Sene: Rm 201 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper: Fox Hall 7:00pm Lenten Devotions 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6:30pm Property Committee 6:30pm Zumba class: Fox Hall 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:00pm Bingo Snow Dote</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall</p>
<p><b>26</b> 8:15am Worship Service 9:30am Faith Formation 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Moravian University Choir Concert</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:00pm Combined Choirs</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:30am Staff meeting: Rm 201 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Worship &amp; Music</p>	<p><b>29</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Sene: Rm 201 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper: Fox Hall 7:00pm Lenten Devotions 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support</p>	<p><b>30</b> 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Combined Choirs</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	

**ASH & DASH**  
8am-9am  
4pm-5pm