

**DONNALEE  
YEATTS**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 17 • Issue 140 • May 2024

## We Are Witnesses! - Digital Discipleship

The global pandemic taught us that we can do much more than we initially thought as a faith-sharing community. We found new ways to worship together through digital means like Zoom. While it wasn't the same as meeting in person, it allowed us to stay connected. We discovered the power of sharing our faith stories and images online to uplift and strengthen our community.

The primary goal of our church is discipleship—helping people follow Jesus's life and teachings, embodying acts of compassion and love, and guiding each other in Christ-like behavior. As Jesus commanded, **“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)**, we understand that simply opening our doors isn't enough. We actively seek ways to invite people into our community of love and grace through diverse activities and experiences.

However, with digital natives like Generation Z and Millennials, their lives largely revolve around technology and digital interactions. Rather than expecting these younger generations to follow old patterns, we need to become more accessible online, where they are most active.

These younger generations prefer digital discipleship through bite-sized content on platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Twitch, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. Remember the days of MySpace and Facebook? Today, these platforms are less popular among the youth, who opt for newer digital spaces, highlighting a generational shift in media consumption.

In this era, to communicate effectively, we must use the platforms that newer generations use to truly “speak their language.” The Day of Pentecost story illustrates this beautifully, as people of many nationalities and dialects gathered in Jerusalem, and through the Holy Spirit, everyone could understand each other despite their different languages (Acts 2:7-8).

Today, digital disciples might engage with a faith message through a single image, a few words, or none at all. They connect daily or weekly through posts rather than traditional sermons or

classes. This generation responds to visuals that they can share, spreading inspiration and prompting action, embodying the essence of “liking” and “sharing” as part of their discipleship.

They send prayer requests via texts, share photos, check-in online for worship, and post about their meaningful connections and experiences. These moments—humorous, serious, or poignant—are where life and faith intersect, forming what we can call “God moments.”

While in-person gatherings remain important, today’s digital disciples are not restricted to physical spaces. They make intentional efforts to guide their online communities to larger, meaningful engagements, creating a community of faith that impacts lives and deepens relationships. This online presence allows them to connect with others who share similar desires for meaningful experiences in an increasingly isolating world.

Discipleship is fundamentally about modeling a life of love as Christ’s followers. The love of God compels us to create spaces and experiences that are open and welcoming. Instead of dwelling on the difficulties of understanding this new generation, we should focus on how we can better share our stories and learn to make new connections. Speaking in a faith language that resonates with them is crucial for them to hear, understand, and embrace our message.

This Easter season reminds us of our role as witnesses to God’s love through Jesus Christ, leading us to the experience of Pentecost where the Spirit breathes life into creating a new, transformative community. I’m a witness! You are a witness! We are witnesses, now and always, as we “Worship, Love and Serve ~ No Matter What!”

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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## On The Cover...



### DONNALEE YEATTS

I am DonnaLee Yeatts, your 2024 church consistory president. I've been a member of St. John's UCC, Fullerton since my confirmation; however, I was baptized and went to Sunday School here, too. I have been very active in this church since I grew up 2 1/2 blocks from the church. I participated in the cherub choir, youth choir, bell choir, 3-part women's choir, and now the Choir of St. John's. During my youth, I had an inkling of going into ministry, but I didn't think I could write a sermon every week.

When not in church, I work for Guardian Life Insurance Company as a team leader for a group of 11 Long Term Disability case managers. However, I love to be creative and have provided several tea tasting sessions for our Lady Peeps. Some of my favorite memories are helping to write and direct the various dinner theatre events we had in Fox Hall prior to the 2020 lock-down.

I enjoy assisting with leading worship, whether it is being a liturgist, scripture reader, or a singer in the choir. I also assist, when I can, with leading our children's Faith Formation class. I encourage all of you to get involved in your church. It is such a rewarding experience!

## Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Gus Geissinger	Mary Jane Ott
Phyllis Ambearle	Roberta Haberern	Marilyn Piskula
Anita Beil	Lucille Hicks	Marietta Seyfried
Clarence Biehn	Geraldine Keim	Madeline Slivka
Sandra Diefenderfer	Adrienne Kiesbar	Bert Smith
Shirley Downing	Emma Repp Kuczek	Jolene Weaver
Jeanne Fischl	Jean Litzenberger	Nancy Weaver
Milton Focht	Bill Meckes	Bonnie Weikel
Sally Gibson	Dale Millham	
Ron Glass	Karen Moyer	

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

## Music at St. Johns

It's hard to believe the 2023/2024 music ministry season is coming to an end in just 3 weeks! It feels like yesterday the excitement of a new season was building and members of the choir and handbell choir were returning from a well-deserved break!

What a year it has been! I am truly blest in many ways to serve as the director of music for the men and women who have given up their time for weekly rehearsals, special events, and of course Sunday morning worship. Whether serving in the handbell choir or singing in the Adult Choir, the music ministry has grown musically and spiritually this year and I am beyond proud! And the same can be said for this congregation!

I think it is safe to say after a wonderful year of fellowship and music, the choir and handbells of St. John's are due for a nice summer break! I know they will at least agree with that feeling! So, what happens in their place during the summer months? That's easy, YOU!

Now before anyone has a heart attack reading that line, this summer, I would like to encourage choir members and non-choir members who like to sing (for non-choir members it does not have to be anything fancy, a favorite hymn works) and instrumentalists who play an instrument but have been shy about coming forward, to share their given talent for our summer worship services! I am looking to fill spots for every other weekend beginning June 9.

If singing a solo is too daunting and nerve wracking, consider becoming involved with our summer choir that will sing in worship once a month during the months of June and July. It would involve two rehearsals prior to the Sunday we sing beginning at 6pm.

If interested or wishing to find out additional information, please contact me at either [music@sjuccf.org](mailto:music@sjuccf.org) or (484) 241-0250.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Musically Yours,  
Patrick





### **Photo Directory Dates**

Sign up today to have your picture taken for our 2024 Picture Directory. Use our website link "Directory" to secure your 10-minute time and date. If you're not able to access the website, simply contact the church office and Alison will gladly assist you with available dates and times.

New Dates are available May 13-16, Monday (10am-7pm), Tuesday (10am-7pm), Wednesday (10am-6pm) and Thursday (10am-7pm) in Fox Hall in 10 minute increments. If you are not able to come to St. John's and want to be in the new directory, please call the Church Office and we will find a time to come to your home for a quick photo. You'll be amazed at what "Photographer Bill" is able to do!

Additional photos may be purchased in either 8x10 or 5x7 sizes. Sign up for your additional photos at the time of your portrait sitting. St. John's is grateful for a private donor who is providing for the additional cost of printing the color directory! We are blessed by this gift of generosity.

### **Clergy Milestone**

We congratulate Pastor Steve who will celebrate the 32nd Anniversary of his ordination which took place on May 26, 1992.



# EASTER SEASON & PENTECOST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

## **Easter Message Series "We Are Witnesses!"**

Through our Easter season celebrations, we not only celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, but for several weeks! Every Sunday worship service is a "mini-Easter." We will explore God's ultimate surprise of the empty tomb and the promise of eternal life and unconditional love. Our Easter journey will focus on who we are as modern day disciples of Jesus, witnesses of God's life-changing love in our lives!

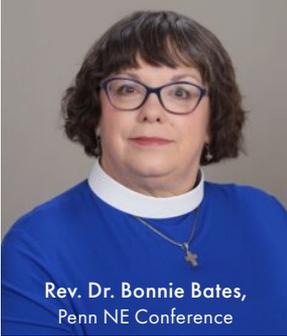
**Pentecost Sunday is May 19!**

Please plan to wear **RED, ORANGE** or **YELLOW** if possible to celebrate the day the fire of God's Spirit was present on the disciples and other followers of Jesus!

## Welcome To Our Conference Minister!

April 28 - "We Are Witnesses!" - Abiding in Love  
 1 John 4:7-21 & John 15:1-8

Sunday, April 28, while Pastor Steve is out of town helping his mother move from New Mexico to Pennsylvania to have a new home with Bill and Steve, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates has graciously accepted the invitation to come and share her witness to the love of Christ with



Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates,  
 Penn NE Conference

us! We are honored to welcome Bonnie and share in worship with her leadership! Plan now to be part of this exciting day of worship!

St. John's has been blessed by the friendship of Bonnie Bates many times over the years. Our Conference Minister not only offers leadership support for pastors and congregations in important times of transition and celebration, she also represents the wider denomination of the United Church of Christ. Bonnie brings to us not only a vast array of leadership skills, she shares a passion for Christ, a deep commitment to our inclusive connection in the love of God, and a great friendship with us at St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

## Welcome Our Pastor Emerita!

May 5 - "We Are Witnesses!" - Friends Together  
 John 15:9-17 Worship with Holy Communion

We are thrilled to have our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith coming to St. John's on May 5 to assist Pastor Steve with



Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith,  
 Pastor Emerita

communion and bring the morning message. Becky will be fresh off her leadership time with St. John's UCC, Coopersburg, and looks forward to sharing in worship leadership with us!

Bring a friend and the whole family to welcome Becky as we share with "Friends Together" in worship and communion.

# Celebrating New Beginnings and Honoring Memories

## Remembering Freda May Albright and welcoming baby Aiden Charles Kline

In this season, our community holds space for both profound sorrow and joyous celebration. As we mourn the loss of Freda Albright, we also warmly welcome the new life of baby Aiden Kline with open arms. These poignant moments, though starkly different, emphasize the ongoing cycle of life within our congregation—a time for reflection and for embracing new beginnings.

Baby Aiden’s baptism, joyously celebrated by the whole Borgman family, infuses our community with renewed hope and joy. It reaffirms our commitment to faith and our role in guiding the next generation. As we grieve Freda, whose husband Larry and daughter remain cherished members of our congregation, we also celebrate the arrival of Aiden, whose presence promises new energy and possibilities.

This combination of heartfelt life events deeply enriches our community, highlighting the delicate balance between joy and sorrow, and underscoring the importance of supporting each other through all of life’s meaningful moments.



## Here We Grow Again!

St. John's proudly welcomed 5 new persons in covenant relationship on Sunday, April 7, 2024!



We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our new friends in faith at St. John's UCC, Fullerton: June McCracken (not pictured), Regina Hickman (seated), Karen Schmoyer, Pam Repetz, and Scotty Siegfried. While June has been actively participating in our 5G Class gatherings, she was on an out-of-country mission trip on April 7 and is not pictured here.

As we come together for worship, Sunday Socials, and various other community activities, we encourage everyone to take a moment to meet and greet our newest members. Introducing yourself to June, Regina, Karen, Pam, and Scotty is a wonderful opportunity to foster connections and build our community spirit. They bring new energy and perspectives to our congregation, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to the life of our church. Please join us in making them feel welcomed and included in every aspect of our faith community at St John's.

## Announcements / “Fun-Raising”

We all like to be “in the know” and well informed! To help with creating important connections, we will have opportunity to share about upcoming events, fundraising opportunities and more at our Sunday Social time in Fox Hall following worship. Announcements are always in print through the weekly worship bulletin, on our worship screens, in the monthly newsletter, and shared on our website, Facebook and congregational emails. Please be sure to stay connected by reviewing the announcement slides in your worship preparation, and take the bulletin home with you to have all the information close in hand.



### **Sunday Social Following Worship**

#### Connecting with God and others

The Sunday Social events following worship continue to add to our whole experience of building community and connections week after week at St. John’s! Thank you to all who have hosted, individuals, families and groups. We all enjoy your efforts to increase our hospitality and welcome to all following worship.

The list with dates open to host the Sunday Social events is posted on the red display board in the sanctuary. Please take a look for available Sundays in May and June and sign up to help.

Invite someone to partner with you. If you have enjoyed the love and efforts of others to share food and fellowship through the Sunday Social time, please consider signing up with a friend to help share this experience with others, or call the church office to let Alison know what Sunday you want to provide refreshments. Colleen Kulhammer is always happy to help orient you in the church kitchen.



Join us after worship in Fox Hall for our Sunday Social!

## Moving to PA in May!

### Hello from Jackie Maxon



Hello everyone, I'm Jackie, Steve's mom.

I look forward to getting to know you with my move to PA to live with Steve and Bill and becoming part of St. John's! I've been joining you online ever since Steve and Bill came

to be with you and greatly enjoy the services!

I enjoy playing bridge and mahjonn, and will want to find a group. I would love your help making all kinds of new connections with a hair dresser (Aveda products), dermatologist, periodontist, ophthalmologist, and others. I will appreciate your recommendations for things to see, places to visit, knowing your favorite restaurants and why you love them. I'm excited to get to know you more over a meal or activity together in the coming months.



As Steve, Bill and I locate a new home for all of us to move to in late June or July, we will appreciate your help in learning more about our new area. I look forward to being part of the St. John's community soon.

Blessings, Jackie Maxon



***Scan, Support & Sustain***  
**BECOME AN AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR!**

## **Will You Help Us Get To 75?**

**Because Of You... In 2024!**

As we enter Spring and Summer, it is increasingly important for us to have consistent income to support our ministry. St. John's needs to know we can count on your regular financial participation whether you are in worship or traveling on vacation.

We want to **GROW** our **AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR** base from **56 giving units to 75 by June 1**. Will you be one who helps us reach our goal of 75?

Some of you have chosen to make a contribution online through our secure website portal. Thank you for trying it out! We hope more will **MAKE THE SWITCH** by setting up recurring automatic contributions for your regular support of our ministry at St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

We've made it easy for you to share your gifts for ministry, and using the QR Code above with your smart phone is a safe and secure means of supporting and sustaining the ministry to which God calls us.

[A new authorization form](#) is available on our website for you to download, print, fill out and return to the church office to begin your recurring contributions from a bank account or credit card. Because of **YOU**, our regular participants and friends, our ability to meet the needs of our church and community changes lives.

## Adopt-A-Flowerbed

Many people in our St. John's family have a "Green Thumb!" Others can help get flowers, pull weeds, add mulch and more. Simply said, "Many hands make for light work." The flowerbeds on the St. John's campus could use your loving attention.

Help the Property Committee by volunteering to "Adopt-a-Flowerbed" for the year. We will give you suggestions for some consistency around the grounds. You "adopt" one of the planting areas we have identified and take it from there. Clean up the space, plant new flowering plants or small shrubs or ground cover, and check on it every couple of weeks. Help us keep St. John's a lovely place, inside and out!

Contact Wayne Lichtenwalner or the Church Office to select your gardening spot to "Adopt."



## SaveAround Books



The "Fun-Raising" committee is selling Save Around the Lehigh Valley books. This is a discount book that has coupons for restaurants, services and retail plus fun and recreation merchants that are local and national. Weis Markets,

White Castle, Zandy's, Becky's Drive-In, Sherwin Williams are just a couple examples of the offers in the discount book. Please see Kathy Haggerty (610) 390-6989 to purchase a book and start saving.

## Opportunity Knocks!

Do you realize that by purchasing Giant and Weis gift cards and by saving Redner's register tapes you are contributing money to St. John's?

For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5 percent back. You also get discounts for gas at both stores. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship.

For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1 percent back from its Save-A-Tape Program. The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. Thanks to Karen Stoitsits, who recently compiled \$5139.20 worth of tapes, St. John's will receive a check for \$51.39.

It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping or need to fill up your car.

## 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 **May 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)

## Save The Dates!

Flag Day Gift Card Bingo – Friday, June 14  
Block Party at the Pavilion – Saturday, July 13  
Community Yard Sale – Saturday, August 10  
Annual Road Rally – Sunday, October 20

See additional details and events [on page 26](#)

## Gift Card Bingo Tickets on Sale Now

Volunteering is great fun on Bingo night! If you'd like to help, see Tom Moyer, then visit the church office to get your tickets which are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. We are encouraging everyone to dress in red, white and blue for Flag Day, June 14. Doors will open at 6pm, with games beginning at 7pm. Food will be available during the evening. Donations of food items would be greatly appreciated, check with Tom for items that will be needed.

Since many people attending are from our surrounding neighborhood area and not necessarily St. John's members, we will ask for contact information (email and phone) when they purchase tickets. This will potentially give us a effective new way of reaching out to those in the community who don't regularly receive our communications!

This event offers more than just an evening of entertainment and community spirit; it provides a chance to meaningfully impact the lives of our neighbors. By participating, you help to enhance and extend St. John's outreach initiatives, ensuring our continued support and presence in the Whitehall community. Your attendance not only contributes to a fun night but also supports our mission to share love and aid with our neighbors.





## **A God Moment**

As I stood at the produce stand, carefully selecting a head of green leaf lettuce, I could hear her complaints. Over time I had seen her wandering in different parts of the city, always alone, often wearing her internal torment on her face, as sometimes that torment spilled over into angry rants. Lately she has been hanging out at the farmers' market where I shop.

And now, there she was, standing next to me, complaining that today was her birthday and no one had given her anything. Paying for my produce, I could hear the sniggers of some of the younger employees. Then it happened. After announcing that she didn't even have money for lunch, the 40-something owner of the stand called her by name, and said, "I will buy you lunch."

I was not about to let such sensitivity go unacknowledged. As he emerged from behind the stand and walked past me, I touched his arm, looked into his eyes, and said, "You are a dear." He responded with a nod and a quiet "Thank you."

Blessings,

Becca Stephens

## Basket Social on May 4 & May 5

### You won't believe what you'll find!

Imagine finding baskets with gift cards for the Olive Garden & Boscov's; a certificate for a free ice cream cone every day for a year; a Vera Bradley purse and wallet; assortment of wines, books and a Barnes & Noble gift card; items made by St. John's Crafters; a Byers' Choice caroler; fishing gear, or a bucket of car supplies from Auto Zone.

If you're looking for baskets with special themes, we have basket assortments of teas and coffees, picnic and beach collections, baking supplies and groceries, baby items and children's activities, gardening and bird feeding accessories, snacks and candies. The list is endless, and you don't want to miss it!

Sheets of tickets (26 tickets per sheet at \$5.00) will be available ahead of time on Sundays before and after worship as well as on the dates of the Social. Please read the flyer below for more information. We will also have a variety of baked goods and beverages available for sale on both days.



**BASKET SOCIAL**  
DONATIONS NEEDED  
**MAY 4-5**

Baking  
Games/Toys  
Puzzles  
Gift Certificates

Beverages  
Plants  
Baby Items  
Books

*Reserve the Dates!*  
**May 4 - 10am to 2pm**  
**May 5 - 8am to 9:30am**  
**& 10:30am to 11:30am**  
 Tickets: pulled May 5 12:00 Noon  
 \$5.00 a sheet (26 tickets)  
 (There will be a Bake Sale and Beverages)

 **St. John's**  
UCC, FULLERTON

Use the elevator entrance to Fox Hall  
575 Grape Street, Whitehall 18052

## Sacred Water Gathering

Water gathering during vacations was a big hit in 2023! Thank you for bringing back small water bottles from places near and far. We started distributing bottles on Easter Sunday and will continue through August. A basket of bottles will be available in the center aisle while supplies last.

Please take a couple of bottles to collect water samples from your travels in 2024. Return them with your name and the location labeled on the bottles to Pastor Steve for safekeeping. The water will be purified and used next fall on our "Gathering Sunday" to celebrate baptisms and other sacred moments in worship. Thank you for helping enrich our rituals with waters from around the world.



## Thank You Notes

Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with this years Easter Egg Hunt. Although the weather didn't cooperate it was a huge success.

We're not sure who had more fun – the kiddos or the Easter Bunny! Thanks again.

Jennifer and Susan Rarich

We heartily thank everyone for attending Mary Jane Ott's 90th birthday celebration during social hour February 25. Your wishes for a Happy Birthday meant more than you could know and were very deeply appreciated.

Thank you so much for helping to make the day so special for her!  
From the Ott/Rarich/Lord Families



## Call for June Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to contribute pictures or an article for the June newsletter, please email your submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, May 12.

Any photos or graphics for your article should be sent as attachments to your emailed submission. Please do not embed them into a document, as this usually reduces the quality.

Authors, some helpful newsletter guidelines are here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

## **Boardwalk Ahoy!**

St. John's is heading to the beach! Pack your outdoor chairs, blankets, swimsuits, sunscreen, and walking shoes for a fun-filled day trip to Ocean City, NJ. Join us as the Perkiomen Bus Company transports us from our parking lot on Saturday, June 22nd at 8:30 AM. The cost for this seaside escape is \$45 per person.

Last year, a coastal storm thwarted our plans, but this year, we're optimistic for sunny skies! The bus will depart from Ocean City at 7:00 PM, returning us to St. John's. Drop-offs and pick-ups will be conveniently located at 13th and Boardwalk. Throughout the day, there will be a designated time to return items to the bus.

Indulge in boardwalk delights, from Manco & Manco Pizza to Clancy's By the Sea, and treat yourself to some famous Kohr's Brothers ice cream or Shriver's saltwater taffy. If you're in the mood for adventure, try out mini-golf or an escape room right on the boardwalk, or explore the unique shops along Asbury Avenue. To plan your day or check out the options in advance, visit:

<https://oceancityvacation.com/shopping/boardwalk/>.

Please contact Brian Strauss to sign up by May 19th. Let's make this trip to the beach a memorable one!

## **Phillies Game vs Guardians**

America's favorite pastime is almost here, and you can experience the excitement live! Join us for St. John's UCC Night at Citizens Bank Park on Friday, July 26th. The Phillies will take on the Cleveland Guardians at 6:40 PM, and it's Trea Turner Bobblehead Night! We have only 25 tickets available at \$55 each, with seats along the first base side in section 110. Plus, through the Phillies' Phundraising program, St. John's will earn \$4 back for each ticket sold, totaling a \$100 rebate when all tickets are sold. Note that transportation is not provided, so it's a great opportunity to carpool. Plan to arrive early to enjoy some pre-game food at Xfinity Live! To secure your spot, please see Brian Strauss by June 2nd. Don't miss out on this thrilling night of baseball and community!

## Social Hour Demonstration by Michael Thomas

On April 7, Michael Thomas Gutekunst and his family hosted a memorable social hour in Fox Hall to celebrate his Black Belt Project for Action Karate Whitehall, themed around Paying it Forward. Michael Thomas led the gathering through the Student Creed and demonstrated fundamental karate techniques such as punches and kicks. He also showcased his skills with a solo surprise weapon Action Kata. The event was a fantastic display of discipline and martial arts prowess, providing an engaging and educational experience for all who attended. We are proud of Michael Thomas' accomplishments and grateful to everyone who joined us to support his journey.



**Subscribe to our YouTube Channel**



**Grove Street**  
**PUB & GRILL**

St John's UCC Fullerton  
Dine and Donate night  
5p-9p for DINE IN guests only.  
10% of earnings,  
excluding alcohol will be  
contributed to the church.  
1092 Howertown Rd, Catasauqua

**WEDNESDAY**  
**May 8**

This flyer must be presented for St John's to receive benefit.

## “Dine and Donate”

Join us for a special event at Grove Street Pub and Grill to support St. John's! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 8th, and head over to 1092 Howertown Rd in Catty anytime from 5pm to 9pm. This exclusive dine-in event will donate 10% of your meal's cost (excluding alcohol) directly to St John's. Make sure to pick up a flyer from the back of the church before you go; presenting this flyer at Grove Street Pub and Grill ensures that St. John's benefits from your patronage.

Treat yourself to a delicious meal from their enticing menu, featuring crowd favorites like the Zephyr, Konkrete Kid, Fatty Catty, or the classic All-American burger. With a wide selection of great food, there's something for everyone to enjoy. This event is a fantastic way to combine great food with community support. We're looking forward to a wonderful evening of fellowship and dining at Grove Street Pub and Grill. See you there!

## Upcoming “Fun-Raising” Events at St. John’s

**Sat., May 4 & Sun. May 5 – Basket Social** – Sat. 10:00am to 2:00pm & Sun. before and after worship. Fox Hall. Tickets drawn at noon on Sun. Cost \$5 for sheet of 26 tickets. Bake Sale & beverages available. See Amy, Carol, Mike.

**Wed., May 8 – Dine & Donate at Grove St. Pub in Catasauqua** – 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Dine-in guests only. 10% comes back to church (excluding alcohol) Need to bring a flyer. See Brian S.

**Sun., May 26 – IronPigs Party Porch** – 6:35pm. Cost \$39. See Tom.

**Fri., June 14 – Flag Day Gift Card Bingo** – Doors open 6:00pm; game begins 7:00pm. Tickets available soon. Wear red, white, & blue. See Tom.

**Sat., June 22 – Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ** – \$45. For reservations, see Brian S.

**Thurs., June 27 – Dine & Donate at Drizzle’s Ice Cream on Rt. 309 in Schnecksville** – 12:00 Noon to 9:00pm. Percentage of sales come back to church. No flyer needed. See Mike.

**Sat., July 13 – Block Party at Pavilion** – Noon to 8:00pm. Details shortly.

**Fri., July 26 – Phillies vs. Cleveland Guardians** – 6:40pm. \$55. Tickets only; Provide your own transportation. See Brian S.

**Tues., Aug. 6 – IronPigs Grandstand** – 7:05pm. Cost \$13. See Carol.

**Sat., Aug. 10 – Community Yard Sale** – 8:00am to 2:00pm. Details to follow. See Brian S.

**Sun., Oct. 20 – Annual Road Rally** – 1:30pm. See Tom Moyer.

**SaveAround Lehigh Valley Books** – Cost \$25. Coupons for restaurants, businesses, and entertainment venues. Good for entire 2024. See Kathy.

**Nut & Fruit Sale – Details Coming in Late Summer** – See Carol.

**Giant & Weis Gift Cards** – Church gets 5% back. See Tom or Carol

**Redner’s Register Tapes** – Church gets 1% back. See Karen.

### Committee Contacts:

Mike Borgman	(610) 762-8959	Kathy Haggerty	(484)358-7453
Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Amy Feidler	(610) 657- 0654	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119



## **God Is Still Speaking...**

**with Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:00am**

We love learning more about God and each other at St. John's! Our weekly lectionary study gives us opportunity to hear from God through the "still speaking" Word and through each other with our sharing. We welcome you to take part in this weekly time of faith formation. Maybe you're not a "Sunday School" person or don't feel like you know much about the Bible. Questions are welcomed in our study time! We laugh! We learn! We grow in our faith together! We welcome you to this time of sharing with us.

For the Easter season (March 31 - May 19) and Pentecost, we return to the lectionary readings as our foundation readings for worship. ALL are welcome to enhance your experience by joining our weekly Verso-Chat Bible Study. Each week is its own contained experience to discover God's "still speaking" words. 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>

### **In Case You Missed This...**

Our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, had an article posted in the "Faith and Values" column of the Morning Call on Saturday, March 30. Inspired by John 3:16, it was entitled "Religious Practice May Change, but God's Love Remains Eternal." Pastor Becky related her thoughts on Easter and her time of ministering to the people at St. John's UCC in Coopersburg as they prepare to close their doors at the end of April. The link to the article is here:

<https://www.mcall.com/2024/03/30/faith-and-values-religious-practice-may-change-gods-love-remains-eternal/>

# Lady PEEPS

POSITIVE, EXTRAORDINARY, ENCOURAGING, PRAYERFUL SISTERS

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will meet Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. The theme will be Israel's Past and Into the Future.

Our guest speaker will be Jeanette Eichenwald who is the co-founder of the Yachad University, which is a Lehigh Valley Jewish Education Institution. This lifelong educator's resume includes president and executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, former principal of Keneseth Israel Religious School, teacher and former Allentown City Council member.

Ladies come join us for an evening of education, information and friendship. Refreshments will be served and please use the elevator entrance. See you there!

Colleen Kulhamer



*What's the preacher's new favorite Bible story after his mother moved in? The one about turning water into wine—because he thinks it might come in handy around the house!*

## May Birthdays

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

<p>5/4 ..... Nancy Bennett</p> <p>5/8 ..... Robin Brensinger Robert Czekner</p> <p>5/9 ..... Kimberly Saeger</p> <p>5/10 ..... Bailee Neitz</p> <p>5/11 ..... Craig Hanzl Hunter Miller Robert Schlenker</p> <p>5/12 ..... Steve Davis</p> <p>5/13 ..... Ryan Szoke</p> <p>5/14 ..... Donald Brensinger Grant Brobst Fortress Chryst Josef Raszler Timothy Silfies Lucas Williams</p> <p>5/15 ..... Roberta Borgman Nancy Dougherty</p> <p>5/16 ..... Kristin Jordan Judith Sommer</p>	<p>5/17 ..... Jennifer Rarich Lucille Schneck</p> <p>5/18 ..... Sandra Nagy</p> <p>5/19 ..... William Roth Sr.</p> <p>5/20 ..... Lori Fink</p> <p>5/21 ..... Thomas Moyer Ricardo Venanzi</p> <p>5/22 ..... Ronald Eichman</p> <p>5/23 ..... Jamie Kulhamer</p> <p>5/25 ..... Sandra Glass</p> <p>5/27 ..... Seth Bergeris-Cortright</p> <p>5/28 ..... Spenser Beck Janet Black Amy Romberger Teresa Schwenk</p> <p>5/30 ..... Judith Barron Danielle Powell Tammy Yura</p>
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## May Wedding Anniversaries

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

5/2/1992	5/22/2010
Lee Ann & Robert Lopez	Ashley & Ricardo Venanzi
5/3/2008	5/24/2015
Craig & Lauren Schutts	Jesus & Staci Pagan
5/4/2002	5/24/2015
Joseph & Kenda Catalini	Michael & Kristin Jordan
5/7/2011	5/25/2013
James & Janet Ebert	Jennifer Rarich & Eric Lord
5/8/1999	5/25/1986
Keith & Wendy Fox Jr.	Susan & John Weldner
5/12/1979	5/25/1974
Karen & Frank Stoits	Ernest & Candra Zellner Jr
5/12/2012	5/28/2017
Julia Gross & Thomas Gross III	Bill Castello & Steve Davis
5/17/2003	5/30/1982
George & Jill Williams	Lisa & Alan Weiner
5/18/1968	5/31/2002
Gary & Shirley George	Sandra & Steven Nagy





## **“Strengthen the Church”**

Rev. Dr. Georgia Thompson, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, said God calls for us to be a big, inclusive, expansive, welcoming community—a “big tent” community. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a “big tent” where all can be genuinely welcomed.

The Strengthen the Church offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the UCC’s “big tent” vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Penn Northeast Conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of the UCC.

Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all. A special offering envelope and insert is included in this newsletter. Contributions will be received on Sunday, May 19, and continue to the end of May. You can place them in the offering plate, mail them to the church office, or contribute online or by text.

## **Whitehall Food Pantry**

For the month of May we are collecting macaroni and cheese, canned corn, canned meats, peanut butter, pancake mix and pancake syrup. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text.

Contact Gary Black [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) or (484) 274-2405 for more information.

### 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, May 5	Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	3355 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall	(610) 435-0451
Tuesday, May 21	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Sunday, June 2	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. 5th St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, June 18	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

### How did St. John’s Family do?

Mission	Mar. 2024	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$1,287.00	\$3,662.00	\$3,282.00	\$4,477.60
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 410.00	\$ 825.00	\$1,440.00	\$ 445.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 565.00	\$ 739.80
Disaster Relief Fund – Ukraine	\$ 20.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 790.00	\$1,145.00
Disaster Relief Fund – Middle East Support	-0-	\$ 70.00	N/A	N/A
Disaster Relief Fund – Unspecified	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for March totaled \$2,152.00 and is now at \$5,377.00 YTD.

## **General Disaster Relief Fund**

Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world, and it is more important than ever in a crisis. Not only is a freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares. Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope people need to pick themselves back up in the darkest times.

For chef and restaurateur Jose Andres, the food crisis in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010, led to his establishing the World Central Kitchen. Since then, WCK has responded to disasters across the globe by addressing the urgent need to feed people whose lives have been shattered by hurricanes, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, wildfires, floods, and wars. On April 1 six foreign workers from WCK and a Palestinian driver were killed by an airstrike in the Gaza strip. They had just unloaded 100 tons of food at a warehouse and were heading out in a car branded with the organization's logo and two armored vehicles. While just over 1200 miles away in the Ukraine, WCK has served more than 260 million meals to Ukrainians and refugees since the initial attack there by Moscow in February of 2022.

We will continue to receive donations for Disaster Relief in both Ukraine and Gaza. You will find special offering envelopes on the table in the lounge. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or given online or by text.

## **Update on Other Mission Outreaches**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing. A total of \$425.00 was received. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, these funds are used for immediate response and long-term recovery.

## Reminder: Pastie Sale Pickup

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our spring Pastie Sale. A total of 193 pasties were sold. Pickup is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, from 6pm to 8pm and on Sunday, April 28, following worship down in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)

## A Word from Our Crafters

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter and Spring items during our recent Craft Sale in March. We were able to turn \$427.25 over to St. John's. Our next Craft Show will be at St. John's Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 10, from 8am to 2pm at the Pavilion. However, craft items can be purchased at any time during the year by simply contacting Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or by emailing [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com). We can deliver items too if necessary.



## Let's "Play Ball"

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca-Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game. Game day is Tuesday, August 6, at 7:05pm. The cost is \$13 per person, which includes a ticket to the game and a \$2 ballpark credit. It'll be Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs are \$1. For the first 1500 attendees, there will be a Cap Giveaway for any youth 17 years old and younger. The Philly Phanatic is also scheduled to make an appearance. For reservations, please see Carol Raszler before or after worship, contact her at (610) 393-7572, or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 16.

**St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances**  
**Mar 2024**

Income	Electronic	3/3/2024	3/10/2024	3/17/2024	3/24/2024	Total	
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,302.71	\$6,417.00	\$2,640.00	\$2,416.00	\$2,832.00	\$5,547.26	\$26,154.97
Rental Income--Gross		\$54.50			\$54.50	\$1,225.50	\$1,334.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$555.50	\$358.25	\$4,383.50	\$89.25	\$214.25	\$5,600.75
Endowment Interest							\$-
Flowers	\$64.00	\$224.00	\$107.00		\$50.00		\$445.00
Christian Education	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$65.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$140.00
Special Gifts						\$206.81	\$206.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,376.71</b>	<b>\$7,261.00</b>	<b>\$3,170.25</b>	<b>\$6,824.50</b>	<b>\$3,040.75</b>	<b>\$7,208.82</b>	<b>\$33,882.03</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,219.91	\$10,793.00	\$(573.09)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,116.21	\$8,877.00	\$239.21
Property	\$4,545.36	\$3,811.00	\$734.36
Parish Programs	\$1,808.03	\$2,129.50	\$(321.47)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,689.51</b>	<b>\$25,610.50</b>	<b>\$79.01</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$33,882.03	\$76,924.90
Total Expenses	\$25,689.51	\$75,147.38
Net	\$8,192.52	\$1,777.52

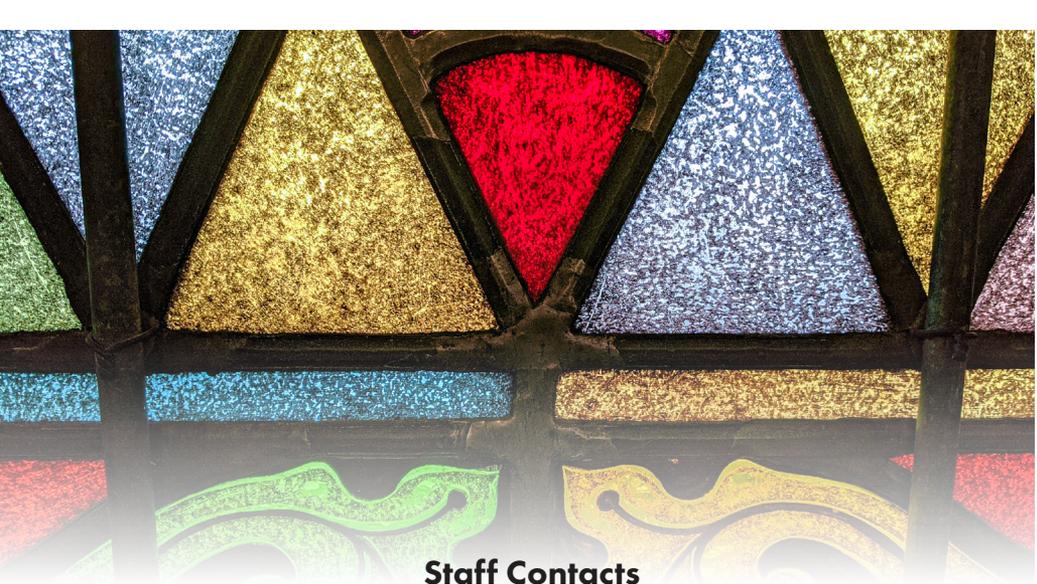
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**Mission Giving, Mar 2024**

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,287.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$410.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$425.00
Ukraine, General Disaster	\$30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,152.00</b>

**St John's UCC Fullerton**  
**Fund Balances**  
**For Month Ending, Mar 2024**

Account	Feb-24	Mar-24	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$36,089.12	\$44,317.63	\$8,228.51
Giant Card Funds	\$1,702.01	\$592.01	\$(1,110.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$2,355.00	\$640.25	\$(1,714.75)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$40,146.13	\$45,549.89	\$5,403.76
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$42,891.65	\$47,191.93	\$4,300.28
Restricted/Property Investments	\$76,385.00	\$76,710.00	\$325.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$119,276.65	\$123,901.93	\$4,625.28
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$486,455.00	\$499,754.00	\$13,299.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$645,877.78</b>	<b>\$669,205.82</b>	<b>\$23,328.04</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(83,636.10)	\$(83,502.33)	\$133.77
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES</b>	<b>\$(83,636.10)</b>	<b>\$(83,502.33)</b>	<b>\$133.77</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$562,241.68</b>	<b>\$585,703.49</b>	<b>\$23,461.81</b>



## Staff Contacts

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# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> 8:00am Basket Social 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship- 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class/ Youth Noon Basket Social Drawing	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	<b>8</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve 5:00pm Grove St Dine&Donate 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
<b>12</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Newsletter Articles Due 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>13</b> 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	<b>14</b> 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	<b>15</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support 7:15pm STARS Committee Mtg	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
<b>19</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEERS	<b>22</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
<b>26</b> 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 6:30pm IronPigs Party Porch	<b>27</b> Office Closed for Memorial Day	<b>28</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:00am Verso Chat with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA Recovery Support	<b>30</b> 5:30pm Music Ministry	<b>31</b>	
<b>Directory photos in Fox Hall - reserve your time here</b>						