



**MIKE
BORGMAN**

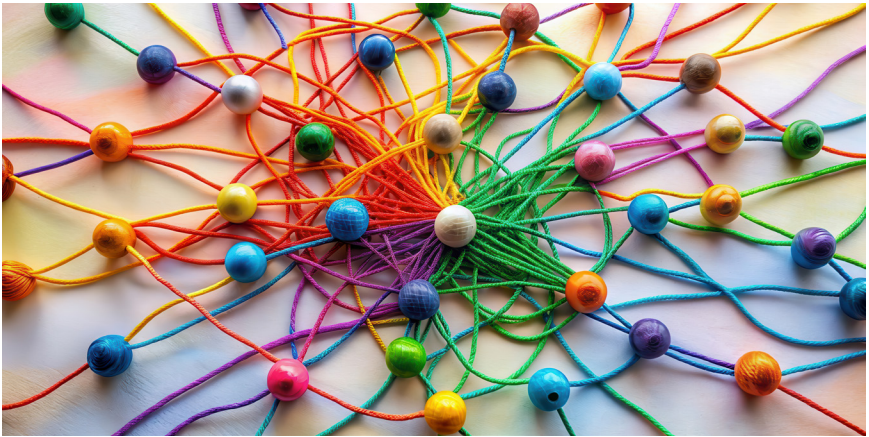
St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 17 • Issue 144 • September 2024

“Connections”

Recently, a congregation member said to me, “You talk a lot...” (there was a pause, and then they went on to add) “...about connections. Sometimes I feel very disconnected.” I understood the feeling. Years ago I was told that if the pastor knows everything that’s going on in the life of the congregation, there’s not enough going on. I laughed, yet I know that also rings true. Feeling connected to activities, to people, to God, often challenges us to rethink why we are involved, how we choose to be in relationship, and what changes take place as a result of our participation and those relationships in our lives and the world around us. “Connections” is more than just the name of our newsletter. We like knowing that what we do makes a difference. Our connections give us meaning.



Last Fall, our focus on a new stewardship emphasis centered on talking about the transformation we experience at St. John’s and in our community “because of you!” We’ve shared those simple gestures and meaningful moments as we share our gifts in worship, being reminded that God does bring about transformation “because of you!” Our participation and generosity matter. Our connections reflect our values.

This past Spring and Summer, we have given attention to the core values that drive us as a congregation and as part of the wider United Church of Christ. The reality we have experienced in recent years is that some people have chosen new paths to express their beliefs

and faith. Others choose new connections with us because they find something here that rings true in the heart of the gospel's good news and the way of following Jesus' teachings and life examples. We've made choices to be in relationship and strengthen our bonds by welcoming new people to journey in faith with us. Our connections give us common purpose.

So as we return to a new program year for 2024-2025 this September, we come with anticipation and excitement for the connections we experience together through St. John's as a place of vitality and hope. We bring all we are to the experience of being the Church and sharing great connections! From the name of our newsletter, to the day-to-day choices we make and actions we take, our connections bring life to our covenant.

We choose to have a divine connection with God. We choose to be in relationship with Jesus and each other, and welcome the spiritual connection of our beloved community.. We choose to have a connection with our neighbors throughout the world, recognizing we have a message of love, grace and hope to share.

Together, we Gather in faith and fellowship, Gain understanding and relationships, Give in time, talent and treasure, Grow through acts of compassion and service, and we Go! ...sharing life and love, grace and hope! These are the connections to which we commit ourselves in covenant with each other on our Gathering Sunday, September 8, as we welcome each other to the blessing and joy of the journey of faith. We are St. John's UCC, Fullerton, and "We Worship, We Love and We Serve ~ No Matter What!"

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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On The Cover...



MIKE BORGMAN

Hi everyone, my name is Mike Borgman. My parents and I joined St. John's UCC in June of 2023. In 2003, I was married at St. John's UCC. I was confirmed at Trinity Memorial Lutheran church in Allentown. I'm currently a member of the "fun-raising" committee here at St. John's. It is a lot of fun planning events for everyone to enjoy. I'm very happy that I chose St. John's as my place to worship!

Most of my interests involve the outdoors. I enjoy hunting, fishing and camping out around a campfire in the mountains. I've been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for roughly 30 years, as a youth, volunteer/ leader and professional. I also enjoy spending summer days on the beach at the shore and collecting seashells. My idea of a great day is spending it with family.

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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

Music at St. John's

Songs

Hymns and songs can have great power, are often important to us, and are the church's most resonant and expressive form of worship. They are often linked with certain memories and associations, but many other factors are at play. Hymns are rich in their use of language, are poetic in form, and use symbol and metaphor to convey meaning. When such language is vivid and vital, it works not only at a cerebral level, but appeals to our imaginations and emotions to reach the depths of heart and mind. Rhyme, rhythm and repetition are used to intensify the experience.

Hymns are written to be sung, usually corporately, and as such, hymn-singing is participatory, a communal act. Embodied-singing engages the whole of our bodies, and so hymns can become living performances of faith and worship. This aspect of rehearsal and performance gives hymns the capacity even to shape faith. What is initiated as an expression of faith becomes, as well, a method of faith development. I'm sure there are times in our churches when all of us say or sing things we're not really sure we believe; but nonetheless the constant repetition of statements must have its effect.

The act of singing a hymn will often bring about the state of mind that is expressed or desired — for example, a sense of joy and wonder, or of guilt and unworthiness. Hymns have the power to shape the faith of individuals and the community.

Now the dreaded part—NEW HYMNS! How dare these composers update text or change the lyrics to a well known hymn tune! Believe it or not, new hymn writing is of vital importance. If we are to aim for an honest expression and shaping of faith for our contemporary world, then we need hymns which express that. We need hymns which are inclusive, and which speak of the transitions of human experience — including traditional rites of passage as well as those transitions often overlooked or forgotten. We also need hymns that are appropriate for secular or interfaith occasions.

Music in some form or another has been part of religious worship since the time of the Psalmists. Hymns, with their rhyme and rhythm, their poetic imagery, their memories and associations, are embedded in our individual thinking and our communal worship — they are an integral part of heartfelt worship! So Keep on Singing!

**Musically Yours,
Patrick**

Order Fall Mums Now

Deadline to Order: Sunday. September 15, 2024

Price: \$8.95 - Flowers are in assorted colors

Complete your order using the form here:

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/forms>

Place your order and payment in the offering plate by September 15

Mums will be available for pickup AFTER service
on Sunday, October 6th, 2024





Welcome Back!

Join St. John's as we return for our new program year and Fall schedule for 2024-2025. Here's what we have to look forward to as we engage in faith formation and worship together.

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - Friendship Sunday School Class meeting in Room 201. All are welcome to topical studies, biblical reflection and group discussion (along with some tasty treats), led by various class members.

9:30am Children's Faith Formation - Children in Worship, then Blessed to Be a Blessing in Room 101 and our "mini theater" room for the weekly topic lesson. The children's table will be set up in the Parlor for activity if desired, during worship with parent supervision for any children not participating in regular faith formation activities. Please [see our "HOLY MOLY" article](#) for more details.

9:30am Morning Worship - Our faith community gathered to Worship, Love and Serve! Join us each week in the sanctuary or online with Sunday Social time following worship in Fox Hall.

“Ordinary Time” in the Season of Pentecost

September Worship Series

We welcome the end of summer and the start of our program year with a new series in worship beginning Labor Day Sunday, September 1 and in full celebration on our Gathering Sunday, September 8! We experience God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ in our worship as a beloved community holding each other in covenant connection together. This September, we explore the theme “We Are Called...” sharing the connections we commit ourselves to as we join in covenant with each other at St. John’s.

God’s Spirit continues to speak to us and through us, reminding us of the ways we are called to be in covenant relationship with each other. We intentionally open our hearts wide to the love of God and share St. John’s diversity, celebrating the ways in which ALL means ALL in our welcome and ministry! We are Called to Worship! Called to Love! Called to Serve as we gather together. Celebrate with us as we give thanks to God for the many ways we are called to ministry together!

September 1 - Worship with Holy Communion

+ Blessing the Backpacks

We Are Called: To Gain Understanding and Relationships
James 1:17-27

Welcome all students, teachers, administrators and staff to start the school year in blessing! We want to share a gift with all those in education and offer our support. Bring your backpacks or whatever bag you may carry with you that we might share our blessing with each other and receive a gift from St. John’s crafters ministry. As we commit to learning together, deepening our faith, and building stronger relationships, we open ourselves to receiving greater blessings in our covenant.

September 8 - Gathering Sunday!

We Are Called: To Gather in Faith and Fellowship

Mark 7:24-37

Our return from summer vacations—whether days at the shore, in the mountains, or simply spent on the porch—invites us back to worship! We make covenant together to be people who gather in faith and fellowship. Our faith and relationships matter to us and we intentionally gather to celebrate our covenant.

September 15

We Are Called: Grow Through Acts of Compassion and Service

Mark 8:34-38

This third week of our “We Are Called” series asks us to explore our commitments to growing in our faith through our relationships with others, extending the compassion of Christ in our service to God and neighbor. Love God; love neighbor in actions.

September 22

We Are Called: To Give in Time, Talent and Treasure

Mark 9: 30-37

When we think of our giving, rarely do we consider the joy of children and their readiness to share their joy with others. Possessiveness and self seeking, “what’s in it for me?” is rarely the attitude of children. Jesus welcomes the adults to look at children and see the love of God through their lives.

September 29

We Are Called: Go Sharing Life and Love

James 5:13-20

Our final message in the series reminds us of who we are in the world, reaching out to others. With the many challenges and hardships of life, we share the love and grace of God from the faith community. James’ practical wisdom calls us to step outside our own faith and invite others to restoration and life in Christ.

St. John's Kitchen Corner



Welcome to St. John's kitchen, where the aroma of fresh brewed coffee and delicious baked goods beacons to one and all on any given Sunday morning. The Sunday Social Hour which takes place in Fox Hall every Sunday after the service has become the heart of St. John's. It has grown from a small group of about 12 to a gathering of 40-60 people each week. This is a place to relax, share news with each other, laugh and eat! Thanks to the many special volunteers who have hosted each week we have been treated to some amazing and creative food along with warm and cold beverages.

As I continue to tell those who volunteer, it does not matter how much food is provided. It does not matter if you are creative with it. It does not matter if it is homemade or store bought. St. John's people are happy to share the 2 fish and 5 loaves or the abundance of many items from those who are theme driven! This is a time to share a cup of coffee or juice with friends. I would love to see even more volunteers host in this coming year. If you would like to host, just find someone to do it with you and the burden will seem much lighter. All you have to provide is the snack food items.

The kitchen provides the drinks and paper goods. I set up the tables on Saturday and make the coffee on Sundays. I am ALWAYS here to help out and guide you through the process and through the kitchen.

In the next few newsletters, I will give you some helpful hints about finding things and using items in the kitchen. Thank you once again to all who have hosted and assisted in making St. John's kitchen a happy kitchen!

Colleen Kulhamer

Confirmation Class 2024-2025

Registration & Parent Conversations

The experience of Confirmation marks an important time of growing in faith in a young person's life. Choosing to embrace a meaningful relationship with God and claiming faith in Christ is a greatly personal and significant community experience. Over the last few years, increasing school and family activities have often added greater crowding to our young people's already busy lives.

In conversation with parents, youth, our Elders and Consistory leaders, Confirmation leaders and Senior Pastor, we have questioned and evaluated the depth of experience our young people have shared in Confirmation classes. We want to have two additional discussion opportunities for parents and young people to attend on September 15 and 22 following worship. Parents of youth entering 7th or 8th grades are asked to take part in a conversation with Pastor Steve, Confirmation leaders and Elders on these two Sundays to present plans for a deeper experience of faith.

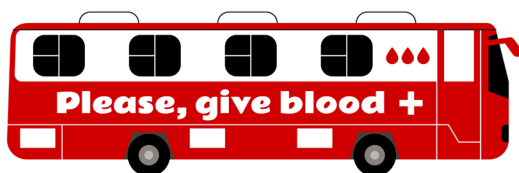
Please be sure to register for Confirmation using the link to the Google Form on the [St. John's website](#) or on our [St. John's Facebook page](#). Then, plan to be present for these two important conversation dates as we prepare for the experience of Confirmation.

Thinking About Getting Involved More at Church?

With the start of September and church activities getting back into the swing of things after the summer, you may find that being part of the Mission Committee is where you can participate more in the life of the church. Do you have some good ideas to share or want to become involved in our outreach programs? The Mission Committee meets about six times a year with our meetings normally conducted on Zoom. Our next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, at 7pm via Zoom. If you would like to sit in on a meeting to observe and learn more, please contact the church office or Carol Raszler for the Zoom link and passcode.

Blood Donations Urgently Needed

The Miller-Keystone Blood Center has reached out. They are in dire need of blood donations. Please stop by one of their donation centers to make your gift of life. Remember to give our church code, 0872.



Donor center locations:

Bethlehem

1465 Valley Center Parkway
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Allentown

1255 South Cedar Crest Boulevard, Suite 1300
Allentown, PA 18103

Allentown

Hamilton Five City Center, 740 Hamilton Street, Suite 120
Allentown, PA 18101

Easton

3765 Nicholas Street, Palmer Township,
Easton, PA 18045

Healthcare Ministry
SharonA



GIVE BLOOD
give life...

Picnic Fun

A great time was had by the members of St. John's adult Sunday School (Friendship Bible Class) at its annual picnic on Saturday, August 17. Held at Bill Fink's family campsite in the Mertztown/Topton area, the class enjoyed everyone's company in spite of the occasional thunderstorms and rain. Everyone brought a covered dish to share along with the hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken. Some played cards, some went fishing, lots of fellowship and conversation, and the picnic concluded with an evening around the campfire.





Sunday Social Following Worship

Connecting With God And Others

The Sunday Social events following worship have been amazing over the summer. As we begin the new program year, we hope more families and groups will consider hosting our social time. We are building community and connections week after week at St. John's! Thank you to all who have hosted, individuals, families and groups.

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 for the remainder of 2024 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 and 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!

Picture Directory - Share Your Photos

Gathering the photos of our members who are homebound and others who have not yet come in for a photo sitting has progressed slowly over the summer. Remaining homebound members will be photographed in September with Pastor Steve coming to share Holy Communion and also take your photograph for those who desire to be included in the new directory. With summer delays, we hope to complete the new picture directory by our Fall meeting in November for distribution.

To include as many as possible, we STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

We still welcome anyone who has not yet been photographed to send in a high resolution photo to be used. Out-of-area members may send in a photograph as well. Please contact newsletter@sjuccf.org or contact the church office for more information.

POWER Interfaith - Fair Funding

COMMUNITY EVENT

Hosted by the Lehigh Valley
Education Leadership Team



August 29th
6:00-8:00 PM

COMMUNITY LEADERS PARENTS & ORGANIZERS

POWER Interfaith is inviting all parents and community leaders in the area to network and learn new methods in which we can create a brighter future for our children. POWER is a grassroots organization comprised of Pennsylvania congregations and individuals committed to racial and economic justice on a livable planet. If you are passionate about improving your community, ensuring districts receive fair funding, and creating long lasting change, we encourage you not to miss out on this event. For further detail, please contact Delia Mitchell by phone at 484-626-1054 or by email at dmitchell@powerinterfaith.org



Cathedral Church of the Nativity

321 Wyandotte Street

Bethlehem, PA 18015

Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!

Because Of You... in 2024! Our Goal is 75!



Your support of our ministry makes the difference in lives all across our community. While we've struggled to shift current giving units to automatic contribution, we have created additional methods to make donating even easier and more convenient.

Please watch the weekly updates by our Treasurer, Sue Weldner in

the worship bulletin and in the newsletter, to see how we are doing toward our target financial goals. We trust God and the generosity of our faith community. "God loves a cheerful giver!" That's the promise we have from the scriptures, and St. John's makes it easy for you to share your generosity. Over the last two years, our Stewardship & Finance Committee has been urging our contributors, month after month, to adopt a consistent "Automatic Contribution" to support the ministry of St. John's all year long.

With our new ability to receive contributions by debit/credit cards on site at St. John's, we hope more of you will give it a try and 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. 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 red information table [and 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.

Sacred Water Gathering

We will consecrate our waters from around our area and around the world on Gathering Sunday, September 8. This new ritual of community, gathering water from our travels and places of leisure, provides the water we use in sacred moments of worship, remembering God's grace in baptisms and sharing in the cleansing and promise of God's love.

If you have not yet returned your water, you still have until Thursday, September 5, to gather and bring your water to the church. Give the returned bottles to Pastor Steve or bring them to the church office. Thank you in advance for helping create a new ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world.

New Ways To Make Giving Easy!

We now have the ability to receive debit/credit card payments for all our many activities and opportunities at St. John's! You've asked us to make giving even easier. Now we have the ability to receive payment using your debit or credit cards through a *secure, encrypted transaction system*, either onsite at St. John's or by using our website.

Want to buy some Giant or Weis Gift Cards for your groceries? Want to purchase your IronPigs game tickets? Want to go on one of our bus trips? Ready to purchase candies? pasties? nuts? or flowers? Bingo tickets? You're in luck! It's easy! Be sure to visit with Alison, Michelle, Tom, Carol or Pastor Steve and we will help you get started. All we need is you and your card!

Deadline for October Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the October newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, September 8.

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

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/stylenotes>

Applebee's Burgers-For-A-Cause Gift Cards.

This is a great bargain! These gift cards cost \$10 each and are valid for any burgers and fries on Applebee's Menu. (Most of their burgers cost \$14 to \$18.) St. John's will profit from each gift card that is sold. Cards are good at any location with no expiration date.

Please see Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler to purchase cards, or call the Church office.

St. John's 28th Annual Road Rally

Coming in October! The most fun you can have in the car while not knowing where you're going... Sunday, October 20th

Sign up sheets will be in the back of the church in mid-September.



While kids tap their screens with a grin,

Their elders have trouble again.

They grumble and hiss,

"What's the password to this?"

"Hey, Grandma... type 575 grape to log in!"

Women's Retreat Update

Ladies! The Women's Retreat, which is November 22-24, currently has a waiting list. The 30 spaces that we were able to secure have all been taken and we have one person on the waitlist. If you would like to be on the waitlist, please see Colleen Kulhamer to let her know.

At present, Becky Beckwith, Susan Kuder and myself are preparing for this special weekend. The theme for the weekend will be Angels Among Us! The weekend will include singing, learning, sharing and bonding. There will be special projects, crafts, games, group time and time to be alone. This is a time to relax, center yourself, laugh and eat at the famous snack table together! As we get closer to the date more information will be sent to those attending and how to prepare for the retreat.

For those who have paid in full for the retreat I thank you. The deadline for paying in full is October 1.

Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC Fullerton, and put them in an envelope earmarked for the women's retreat with your name and amount on the envelope. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it into the office. If you have any questions please see me, Colleen Kulhamer, or email me at clkulhamer@aol.com and I will do my best to find an answer for you.

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 **September 7 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

Thank You

Dear St. John's Congregation:

I wanted to extend the district's sincere appreciation for your generosity in donating and delivering supplies for students in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the kindness that you have extended towards our school family. Your donation will allow us to provide students in need with supplies necessary to enhance their education during this new school year. We are grateful that our schools are located in such a caring community!

Sincerely,
Robert J. Steckel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Whitehall-Coplay School District

Grocery Shopping is as Easy as A, B, C

Whether you drive to the grocery store to shop, order online, or have your groceries delivered, we all need groceries. 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% 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% 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. If you have any questions, contact Karent Stoitsits.

It's an easy 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.

Lady PEEPS

The first meeting for the Lady PEEPS Women's Group is set for Tuesday, September 24th at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. This Women's group is open to women from ages 18 to infinity! For those who have never come to a meeting, it is a time to relax, learn, be creative and bond with a fabulous group of St. John's women. There is always caring and laughter and delicious snacks!

PEEPS stands for Positive - Extraordinary - Encouraging - Prayerful - Sisters!

The theme for our first meeting is BEIRUT TO BROOKLYN - MY STORY. Our guest speaker will be my friend Amal Ghosn Assaf, also known as Amy! Come and hear her story of growing up in a country plagued by war and then coming to America and living in Brooklyn. It should be a very special evening. See you there!

Colleen Kulhamer

The monthly schedule for Lady PEEPS meetings this season is:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • September 24 | • December 17 | • March 18 |
| • October 22 | • January 21 | • April 22 |
| • November 19 | • February 18 | • May 20 |

Shopping Event Returning to Boscov's

"Friends Helping Friends"

A big shopping day could be yours at Boscov's. It's for Tuesday, October 22, from 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's, and the church gets to keep the funds. This pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price, in-store and online, and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions. Present the pass at check-out and receive your discount. Also register for a chance to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card by scanning the QR code on the shopping pass with your phone. To get your pass, see Ginny Brokenshire before or after worship or give her a call on her cell# (720) 909-5848 or email ginny@posleader.com



In Case You Missed This...

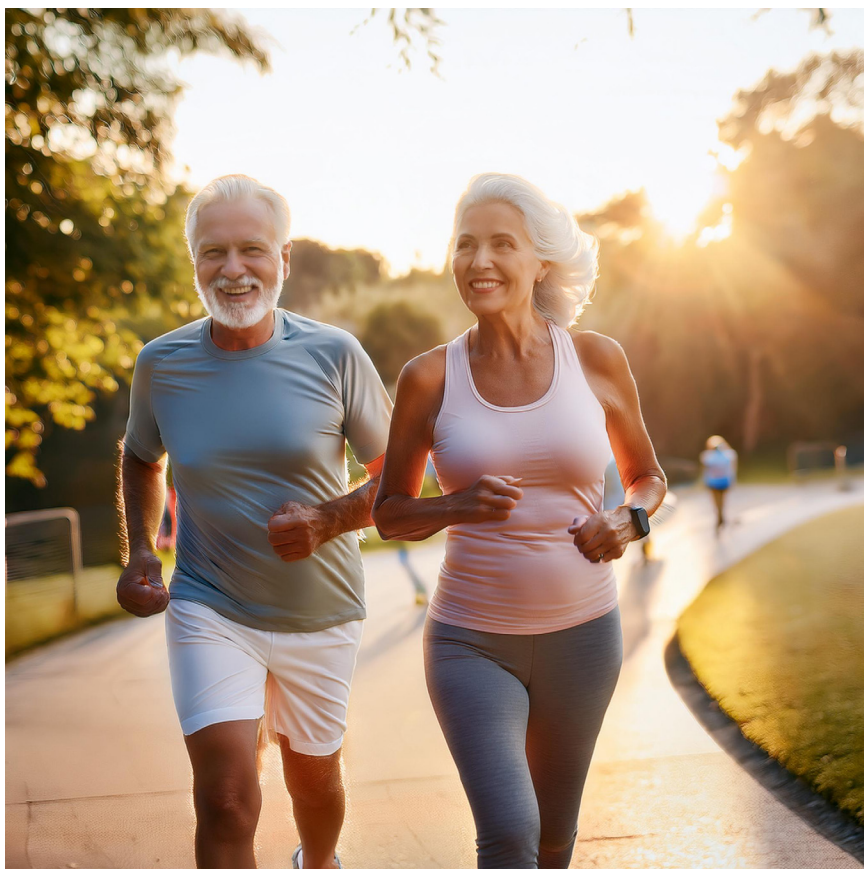
Our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, had an article posted in the "Faith and Values" column of the Morning Call on Saturday, August 3. It was entitled "God Bestows the Gift of Laughter." Inspired by Genesis 21:6, the article refers to the message given by God to Sarah. Pastor Becky goes on to say how laughter is both spiritually and physically healthy and for us to make a conscious effort to find time for laughter in our lives. The link to the article is: www.mcall.com/2024/08/03/faith-values-god-bestows-the-gift-of-laughter

Fall Walking Challenge is Approaching

Hello St. John's Walkers. It's almost time for our 2024 Fall Walking Challenge. It will begin September 15 and end October 12. Hope you are ready for the nice Fall leaves, fresh air and a good time. This is not a competition with other walkers. You must just challenge yourself. Please contact Sharon Antrim by email, sharonantrim@yahoo.com or phone (610) 216-6207. I'm really looking forward to this next challenge. Let's make it a good one.

The Crop Walk is October 13. I encourage everyone to make a donation to the Crop Walk. Thank you.

Healthcare Ministry
Sharon Antrim



Attention Crafters and Vendors !

Sign Up for Our Annual Craft & Vendor Fair

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Place: St. John's UCC, Fullerton – Fox Hall (elevator accessible)

Tables will be provided at a cost of \$25 per table. All handmade crafters and vendors will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Limited spaces are available, and we cannot guarantee electrical outlets. There is only one vendor per company and spaces are limited to three of like products.

Set up time will occur from 7am to 9am on Saturday. Food will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

[Contract forms are linked here](#), available in the church office or by contacting Kenda Catalini at (484) 358-7453 or by email at kpcatalini@aol.com

Send payment and contract to: St. John's UCC, Fullerton, 575 Grape St., Whitehall, PA 18052 – Attention: Kenda Catalini, Craft & Vendor Fair.

Deadline to reserve your table is Sunday, September 29. You can contact Kenda if you have any questions.



Nut & Fruit Sale

If you haven't placed your order yet for our annual Nut & Fruit Sale, the deadline is Sunday, August 25. [Order forms can be found on the church's website](#) and on the table in the lounge area. Costs vary from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for 1 lb. bags. See Carol Raszler before or after worship to choose some free samples for you to taste. The anticipated time of arrival should be by mid-November. We will be in touch with you when the products arrive to arrange a drive-by pickup at the pavilion and pickup after worship. For more information contact Carol (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries

We congratulate the following pastors who will celebrate the anniversaries of their ordinations in September:

Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith – 27th Anniversary
ordained on September 14, 1997

Rev. George Eckstein – 52nd Anniversary
ordained on September 21, 1972

Rev. David Quinn – 38th Anniversary
ordained on September 25, 1986

Rev. Matthew Seeds – 16th Anniversary
ordained on September 28, 2008

Rev. Becca Stephens – 32nd Anniversary
ordained on September 27, 1992



IronPigs Game Rained Out!

Hurricane Debby played havoc with our IronPigs group outing of 83 baseball fans on Tuesday, August 6. The game was eventually postponed, and no innings were played. Some of us came anyway just for the \$1 hot dogs. Some traveled all the way from Maryland just to be together with family and friends. Diana Beck's brother never got to throw out the First Pitch.

For all the ticket holders, your tickets can be exchanged for a future IronPigs game. They will be good for any remaining 2024 regular season home game or for any April/May 2025 regular season home game—for tickets of equal or lesser value based on availability. You can contact IronPigs at (610) 841-7447 to reschedule, and you'll need your ticket as proof of purchase for this canceled game.



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

Sat., Aug. 24 – Community Yard Sale at Pavilion – 8:00am to 2:00pm. \$10 for your own table; \$15 to use church table. Reservation form needed. Event postponed from Aug. 10 due to weather. See Brian S.

Nut & Fruit Sale – Assortment of nuts, dried fruits, chocolates. Article and order form on website, on table in lounge, or from office. Deadline Sun., August 25. See Carol.

Sun., Oct. 20 – Annual Road Rally – Meet at 1:30pm at church. Follow the route and arrive at a restaurant for supper. Look for bulletin board in lounge area to sign up. See Tom.

Tues., Oct. 22 – Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” – Shop for sales from 8:00am to 11:00pm. Purchase a \$5.00 pass and church keeps the funds. See Ginny.

Sat., Nov. 2 – Craft & Vendor Fair – 9:00am to 2:00pm in Fox Hall. \$25 to reserve your space. Food available to purchase. Reservation form and payment needed by September 29. Contact Kenda Catalini at (484) 358-7453 or email at Kpcatalini@aol.com.

Fri., Nov. 8 – Turkey Tango Gift Card Bingo – Reserve the date. Doors open 6:00pm; Bingo starts at 7:00pm. Tricky Tray & 50/50 drawings. Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. See Tom.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – \$10 coupon entitles you to a gourmet burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

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

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

Dates in 2025: Mardi Gras Gift Card Bingo – Friday, February 28.
Kentucky Derby Gift Card Bingo – Friday, May 2.

Committee Contacts:

Mike Borgman (610) 762-8959 (Chairperson)

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Karen Stoisits	(610) 262-0746
Amy Feidler	(610) 657- 0654	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134		



God Is Still Speaking...

with Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9am

Our season of Pentecost continues into the Fall with the lectionary readings help us more greatly experience the beloved community of God. Our weekly studies continue on Wednesday mornings. Exploring the Bible always opens us to discover new things. Our “still speaking” God continues to open our lives and understanding as we share with each other at St. John’s! We welcome you to take part in this weekly time of faith formation this Fall. 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.

We explore the lectionary readings for upcoming Sundays as our foundation readings for worship. Sometimes, Pastor Steve selects other scriptures to supplement the lectionary for a special worship series. Either way, you will have fun growing in questions and sharing our faith and teaching together.

ALL are welcome to enhance your experience by joining our weekly Verso-Chat Bible Study. Each week is it’s 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!

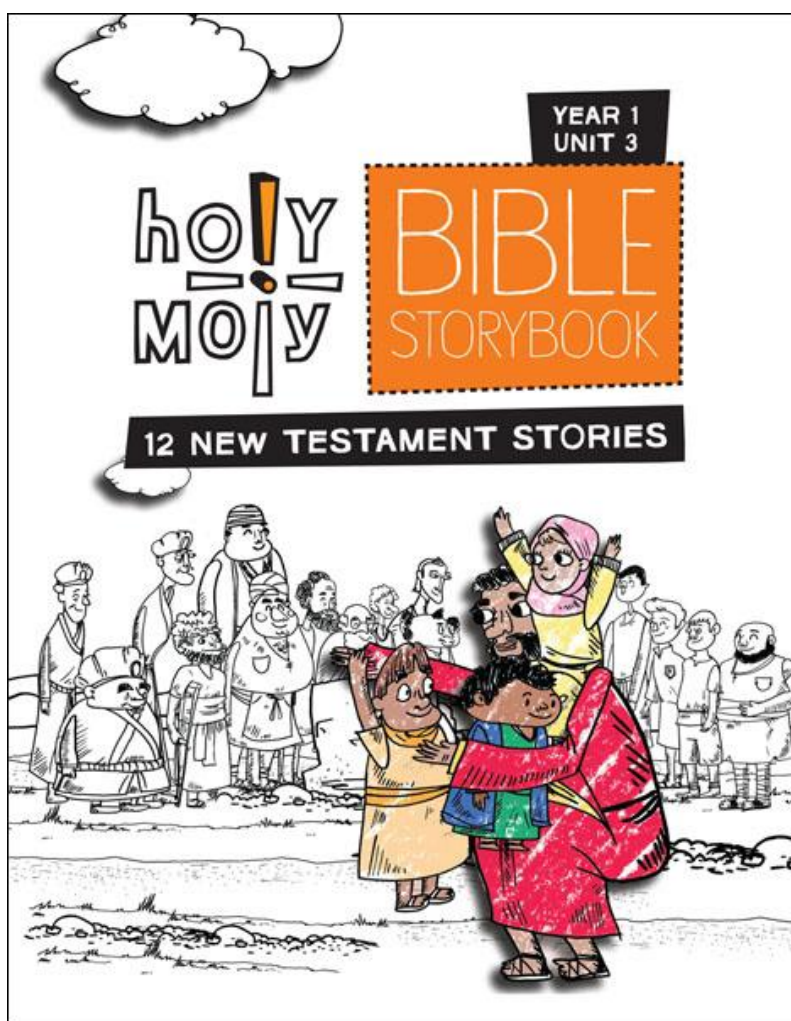
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571428042>



VERSO-CHAT

Children's Curriculum

In the coming weeks, Becca Stephens will be meeting with the Blessed to be a Blessing leaders to discuss our plans for September. A Bible-based curriculum has been selected called Holy Moly, which includes an engaging video component. Additionally, we are planning to create a special video to teach the children the Lord's Prayer, incorporating both the words and motions to help them understand the meaning. Kinesthetic learning—getting the kids actively involved—is a fantastic way for them to learn and grow in their faith.



September Birthdays

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

9/1	Madeline Slivka	9/19	Andrew Deutsch
9/3	George (Rick) Borgman		Donald Foellner
	Patricia Molinaro		Robert Hoanzl
	Jill Williams		Nathan Powell
9/4	Bonnie Strauss	9/20	Betty Millham
9/6	Kayleigh Fisher		Rowan Rarich Lord
	Regina Hickman	9/22	Ruthann Hallman
9/7	Cathy Bachman		Emma Kuczek-Repp
	Audra Sommer		Robert Lopez
	Samantha Schutts	9/23	Thomas Hunsicker
9/9	Gary Black		Craig Schutts
	William Fink		Patrick Yoder
	Lora Nailor	9/25	Sharon Foellner
9/11	Judith Rossanese		Leona Snyder
9/12	Evelyn Broad	9/27	Margaret Baatz
9/13	Robert Christman Jr		Roger Schneck
	Virginia Hess	9/28	Shirley Abel
9/14	Roberta Haberern		Susan Brinker
	Jane Moyer		Cynthia Sommers
9/16	Rebecca Loch	9/29	Tracy Fisher
9/18	Virginia Brokenshire		Michael Thomas Gutekunst
	Joyce Dumbach	9/30	Tara Bryant
			Linda Powell



September Wedding Anniversaries

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

9/6	9/23
Jo Ellen & Barry Wexler	Amanda & Erik Volkert
9/10	9/24
Dale & Betty Millham	Larry & Cindy Martin
9/12	9/24
Barbara & Robert Menges	Timothy & Lori Silfies
9/13	9/26
Paul & Carol Raszler	Jeffrey & Lora Nailor
9/14	9/26
Jamie & Heather Santee	Mark & Denise Moll
9/16	9/26
Frank & Phyllis Cszasz	Andrew & Jamie Kulhamer
9/16	9/27
Barbara & Blaine Holden	Sharon & Mike Borgman
9/18	9/27
Thomas & Kristine Gersbach	Diane & James Walter
9/18	9/29
Nathan & Danielle Powell	Joyce & Kenneth Dumbach
9/22	
Craig & Nicole Headman	





Take the Climate Hope Voter Pledge

With the success of the 2023 Climate Hope Cards campaign, the UCC will be conducting another Climate Hope campaign in 2024. Through past General Synod resolutions, the UCC has made strong commitments to climate action at the federal level of the U.S. government, transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy by 2040, and affirming the intersectionality of climate justice with all justice issues. In a survey of local lead organizers, it was determined that top priorities for 2024 include electing climate justice champions to Congress and advocating for legislation that addresses environmental racism and the harms faced by front-line communities.



The care of God's creation is a central calling of Christians and has found unique expression in the life of the United Church of Christ. Leaders from the UCC were integral to the launch of the environmental justice movement in the 1980s. As Christians we are called beyond our individual lives to love our neighbor and to care for all of God's creation.

In 2024 the UCC has launched its second campaign called "Vote for Climate Hope." St. John's UCC will again take part in this campaign. Look for your voter pledge card in this newsletter, in a future bulletin, and on the table in the lounge area. By taking the Climate Hope Voter Pledge, you are making a sacred commitment to a more just and equitable world for people of all ages, races, and walks of life. To make your pledge online, simply scan the QR Code on the card. Cards can also be turned back into the office or placed in the offering plate. The deadline to return all cards or to pledge online is Sunday, October 13.

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of September, we are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, canned carrots, canned or instant potatoes, tuna fish, coffee, and cereal. 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 or by on-line or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry on the fourth Monday of the month, please contact Gary Black by email at gary.t.black@outlook.com or (610) 262-6114. Thank you to the children and staff at this year's Vacation Bible School, who collected 22 canned goods and 10 non-perishable items for the food pantry.

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that's 55 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.

The steps taken and the funds that are raised together will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.



This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, starting at 1:30pm at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott Street in Allentown. Walkers are needed and church members can sponsor our walkers with your donations. There are two options for walkers:

- **10K Route with refreshments available at the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank, Lehigh Conference of Churches (formerly Dubbs Memorial UCC), St. James UCC, and St. Timothy's.**
- **"Golden Mile" Route through the Hamilton Park neighborhood with refreshments available at St. Timothy's.**

The CROP Hunger Walk helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. CROP Walk funds also support Church World Service's life-saving disaster assistance, displacement assistance, and long-term development assistance with our neighbors throughout the United States and around the globe, including victims of the humanitarian crises in Ukraine and Gaza.

If you would like to make a contribution (cash or check) to the CROP Walk and sponsor one of our walkers, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio before or after worship. Checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP with "CROP Hunger Walk Sponsor" in the memo section. You can also go online to crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa and look for St. John's UCC, Fullerton as a sponsor and make your donation.

The Mission Committee is coordinating this event with our Healthcare Ministry and its Walking Challenge event. The Walking Challenge will take place starting Sunday, September 15, and end on Saturday, October 12.

Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Update

On Thursday August 1, the Mission Committee delivered 14 cartons of school supplies to the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Over 1266 items were donated. Some of the items collected were 20 backpacks, 10 calculators, 31 boxes of crayons, 84 dry erase markers, 54 erasers, 41 glue sticks, 24 scissors, 74 spiral-bound

notebooks, 363 pencils, 18 sets of colored pencils, 216 pens, and 129 pocket folders. Thanks to your generosity, children will receive the supplies they need to start off the new school year in August.



Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. WCHI will post a meal reminder on Facebook and Instagram and state if it is an inside sit-down meal, take out, or a version of both. The meal being served will also be posted. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Haberern, Program Chair, at (610) 730-3184. The host churches are as follows:

Date	Church	Address	Phone
Sunday 9/1	Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	3355 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall	(610) 435-0451
Tuesday 9/17	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661
Sunday 10/6	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday 10/15	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184

How Did Our St. John's Family Do?

Mission	July 2024	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,080.67	\$7,714.00	\$7,535.00	\$9,642.90
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 335.00	\$2,205.00	\$2,865.00	\$ 865.00

Mission Outreach giving for July 2024 totaled \$1,425.67 and YTD giving totaled \$11,049.00.

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances
July 2024

Income	Electronic	7/7/2024	7/14/2024	7/21/2024	7/28/2024	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$5,871.60	\$4,359.00	\$2,653.25	\$4,277.66	\$1,635.00	\$18,796.51
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,325.50			\$50.00		\$1,375.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$15.00	\$382.70	\$10.00	\$45.21	\$452.91
Endowment Interest		\$5,898.00				\$5,898.00
Flowers						\$-
Christian Education	\$45.00					\$45.00
Special Gifts	\$206.81				\$1,675.00	\$1,881.81
Total	\$7,448.91	\$10,272.00	\$3,035.95	\$4,337.66	\$3,355.21	\$- \$28,449.73

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,219.91	\$10,793.00	\$(573.09)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$8,890.28	\$8,877.00	\$13.28
Property	\$3,175.31	\$2,411.00	\$764.31
Parish Programs	\$2,085.43	\$2,054.50	\$30.93
Total	\$24,370.93	\$24,135.50	\$235.43

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$28,449.73	\$175,481.73
Total Expenses	\$24,370.93	\$174,510.92
*****	Net	\$4,078.80 \$970.81

Mission Giving, July 2024

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,090.67
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$335.00
Total	\$1,425.67

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

Account	Jun-24	Jul-24	Difference
Checking Account--KNBT	\$39,775.08	\$43,796.41	\$4,021.33
Giant Card Funds	\$1,397.01	\$1,363.72	\$(33.29)
Weis Card Funds	\$1,501.50	\$171.50	\$(1,330.00)
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$42,673.59	\$45,331.63	\$2,658.04
IN & OUT Account--KNBT			
Checking	\$44,838.12	\$47,204.62	\$2,366.50
Restricted/Property Investments	\$77,580.00	\$77,822.00	\$242.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$122,418.12	\$125,026.62	\$2,608.50
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$507,112.00	\$506,071.00	\$(1,041.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$672,203.71	\$676,429.25	\$4,225.54
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(83,152.33)	\$(83,027.54)	\$124.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(83,152.33)	\$(83,027.54)	\$124.79
NET FUND BALANCE	\$589,051.38	\$593,401.71	\$4,350.33



Staff Contacts

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

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	2 Office closed for Labor Day	3 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	4 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm STARs Committee 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	5 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Mission Committee - Zoom	6	7 8:30am Men's breakfast: Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
8 Newsletter Articles Due 8:30 Fellowship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship - Gathering Sunday 10:30am Social Hour	9	10 10:30am Visitation Committee 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	11 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	12 7:00pm Choir	13	14 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
15 8:30 Fellowship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	16 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	17 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice	18 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	19 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	20	21 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
22 8:30 Fellowship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	23	24 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm PEEPS - Fox Hall	25 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	26 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	27	28 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
29 8:30 Fellowship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	30					