



**CONSTANCE
ARNOLD**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 17 • Issue 145 • October 2024

A More Perfect Union

"That They May All Be One!"

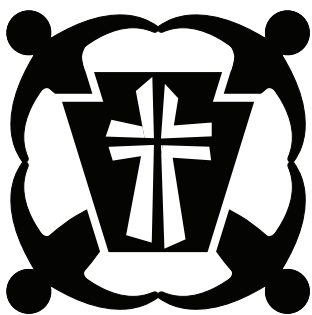
If you've been around the UCC for any length of time, you've seen this scripture quoted, "...that they may all be one." It is a shining light in our churches as we strive to be united and uniting. The Bible verse "that they all may be one" appears in John 17:21, which is part of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer: "That they all may be one, just as you, God, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

In this prayer, Jesus refers to the unity of purpose and intent among his disciples. The prayer's main themes include love and unity, Christ, and the faith and courage of his disciples. In the United Church of Christ, we believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey. We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

In a Pastoral Letter to the UCC, January 2019, then General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer wrote, "The vision of a body united –in purpose, in mission, in vision – is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union."

"Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call."

People in Jesus' day were as divided about Jesus' teaching as we are today, and yet, the day will come when all who seek to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and their neighbors as themselves will be one, even in the midst of difference.



KEYSTONE CONFERENCE

In the next few weeks, we will cast our votes, not only for national, state and local elections, but in our UCC region as well. Over the last two years, we have been presented information through the Keystone Working Group, a collective of pastors and layleaders from across the four Pennsylvania area UCC conferences, proposing we merge and form a new Keystone Conference of the UCC. That vote will be on November 9, and we will have our votes shared. DonnaLee Yeatts, Tyler Shankweiler and I all want to know how you feel about this proposed merger.

As we consider who we are now and who we can become together, may we seek that more perfect union... that we may all be one in the love and grace of our gracious, still speaking, still creating God. May we choose to love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves. 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...



CONSTANCE ARNOLD

Hello everyone my name is Constance J. Arnold. I began attending St. John's in 2013 and became a member in 2018 thanks to my daughter Gracie bringing me to St. John's. I am happy that St. John's is my home of worship, where my granddaughter and daughter were baptized and still attend.

I love reading, writing, bike riding, puzzles, music, roller skating, and most of all, family time and church. I am a Childcare Director and I have been on this beautiful journey for 20+ years.

A perfect day is spending time with my two adult children, my granddaughter, and my significant other, Geoffrey.

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel
Larry Albright
Phyllis Ambearle
Anita Beil
Clarence Biehn
Sandra Diefenderfer
Shirley Downing
Jeanne Fischl
Milton Focht
Sally Gibson
Ron Glass

Gus Geissinger
Roberta Haberern
Lucille Hicks
Geraldine Keim
Adrianne Kiesbar
Wilbur Kline
Emma Repp Kuczek
Jean Litzenberger
Bill Meckes
Gayle Mihulec
Dale Millham

Karen Moyer
Mary Jane Ott
Marilyn (Jean) Piskula
Marietta Seyfried
Madeline Slivka
Bert Smith
Leona Snyder
Nancy Weaver
Bonnie Weikel
Arline Yoder

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

Music at St. John's

Believe it or not, one of the hardest things to do as a music director, or for me at least, is selecting choral anthems. There are so many pieces out there, where does one even begin to look? For me, it first starts with listening to the song. Is the choir capable of singing this piece or, are the bell ringers able to play and do the piece justice? Next part is programming, where does it fit in relation to the scriptures for Sunday worship? Part three, how does this piece push the choir or bell ringers? Does it pose a challenge? Part four, as a music director, at least for me, how do I teach the music to the choir, soloist, bell ringers, so that it makes an impact on not only those singing or playing it, but also on the persons in the pew listening, searching for whatever they need at that moment?

One piece that came to me when I needed it the most, was in 2017 when I lost my best friend Kristin to a freak car accident and was contemplating walking away from being a music director. That piece is known as "I Am With You" by Chris Anderson and Greg Habegger. The history of this piece is that on Saturday, July 27th, 2013, the lives of young people from Colonial Hills Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana were changed forever. Returning from a trip, just a mile from home, their bus crashed, injuring many and taking the lives of their youth pastor, his wife, their unborn child, and another mother. Just days before the tragedy, Chris Anderson wrote this text as an encouragement for Christians in the midst of difficulties. Little did he know how fitting it would be for grieving families, a grieving church, and a grieving Christian community. This piece was first introduced as part of the funeral service for the youth pastor and his family. This piece now stands as a powerful reminder of God's presence in our lives during even the most heartbreaking of times.

I Am with You, says the Father; through the floods I calm and keep.
Though the swelling waves surround you, I surround the waters deep.

Fear not, loved one; feel my presence. You will never be alone.

Trust me, loved one; you are precious. You are Mine-My very own.

I Am with You, says the Savior, even to the age's end.
Never leaving, nor forsaking, I'm your ever present Friend.
Fear not, loved one; hear My comfort: none can pluck you from My hand.
Trust Me, loved one; I am constant: none can change what I have planned.

I Am with You, says the Spirit, there is nowhere you can flee.
Neither height nor depth can hide you, every place is home to Me.
Fear not, loved one, hear my witness, you are God's own child and heir.
Trust Me, loved one, hear my whisper, deep within you, I am here.

Come be with Me, says the Master, greeting hopeful, homesick eyes.
I was with you through your journey; be with Me in paradise.
Trust Me, loved one, know My promise; I will surely quickly come.
Trust Me, loved one, know my purpose, I will bring you safely home.
I am with you, come be with me, safely home.

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music





for Children, Youth & Adults & Worship Celebrations!

Here's what we have to look forward to as we engage in faith formation and worship together.

8:30am Adult Faith Formation - The Friendship Sunday School Class meets in Room 201, to accommodate those with physical mobility needs. All are welcome to topical studies, biblical reflection and group discussion, led by various class members. Anyone needing assistance, please use the Grape Street elevator entrance and come to the sanctuary level. There's always great conversation and some tasty treats to start your Sunday morning well!

9:30am Children's Faith Formation - Children gather with the congregation in worship through the Children's message, then are led to Room 101 and our "mini theater" room for the weekly topic lesson. "HOLY MOLY" is our curriculum theme this year! We believe our children are blessings, and we want them to grow in our love and the love of God. Please see our "HOLY MOLY" article for more details.

The children's table is set up in the Parlor for activity if desired for those who choose to remain during worship with parent supervision for any children not participating in regular faith formation activities. "Kids Busy Bags" are also available at the welcome table.

9:30am Morning Worship - Our faith community gathers to Worship, Love and Serve every Sunday morning! We have a place for you, one and all, and have created places in the congregational seating for those with mobility issues and who need assistance support. We are working to make our spaces accessible for everyone. Join us each week in the sanctuary or online with Sunday Social time following worship in Fox Hall.

Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th Graders - THIS YEAR WILL BE DIFFERENT! ([see page 12](#)).

“Ordinary Time”

in the Season of Pentecost October Worship Series

Fall is here and as the seasons change, our thoughts turn to how we experience God in our ever changing lives. During the month of October we celebrate who we are as a Christian community, with a foundation of prayer in our relationship with God.

“We the People,” the affirmation which begins the preamble of the US Constitution, not only reminds us of our nation’s founding, but also of who we are today. Then as now, our daily purpose remains... “in order to form a more perfect union.” The words of the Constitution set the course and give us direction for our journey together as a nation. Still today, our journey of faith echoes the prayer of Jesus, “that they may all be one,” and we explore more deeply the prayer pattern and words Jesus taught us in order to share more deeply with God and our neighbors.

This October, our worship messages will explore The Lord’s Prayer and we will also take comfort and affirmation in the words of the writers of Psalms. We will pray, learn, sing and share together the prayer that we say every week in various forms to guide us. “We the People,” the people of Jesus, are called to a season of prayer.

October 6 - World Communion Sunday

Worship with Holy Communion

We the People: Guided to Praise

Psalm 8:1-9

Prayer often begins with words of praise. In this affirmation, "O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens," the psalm writer opens our hearts to experience God's greatness! We begin our series and celebrate World Communion Sunday with words of praise, affirming our "more perfect union" in relationship with God and each other.

October 13

We the People: Guided to Know God

Psalm 90:12-17

"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days," shares the psalm writer. When we pray for God to meet our needs each day, "give us this day our daily bread," our primary expression is to know God's love... believing that "nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

October 20

We the People: Guided to Assurance

Psalm 91:9-16

The psalmist speaks God's voice of assurance, writing, "When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them." When we pray, we come seeking the heart of God, longing to be a better people. We look to God to give us hope and confidence, believing God is with us, guiding us with grace and hope.

October 27

We the People: Guided to Praise

Psalm 34:1-8

Just as we began this series with praise, the psalm writer celebrates God's goodness, urging us to join in, saying, "I will bless the LORD at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth." The Lord's Prayer is an invitation to be one with God, to celebrate who we are together in relationship with God and each other, and to affirm God's holiness and love in all of life.

Share Your Photos

Friends, we need your help. We are still trying to be sure we have as many people as possible in our photo directory, both St. John's members and those friends who worship regularly with us. We want your pictures included.

We also want your pictures from events and activities we've shared in the last couple of years. Meetings and meals, fellowship and fun, outings and outbursts! We want them all! If you have some fun pictures of St. John's people celebrating our faith together, please share them with us for our new picture directory!

Gathering the photos of our homebound members and others who have not yet come in for a photo sitting produced a minimal response over the summer, but we aren't giving up.

Remaining homebound members will be photographed as Pastor Steve comes to share holy communion and also take photographs of those who desire to be included in the new directory.

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.

Deadline for November Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the November newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, October 13.

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>

Creating Something New For Youth

Confirmation Class 2024-2025

Registration & Parent / Youth Conversations

It's time to explore faith formation as a young person at St. John's! So... HELLOOOOOOOOOOOOOO 6th, 7th and 8th GRADE YOUTH, and ALL OLDER (TEEN) YOUTH!

St. John's wants to create experiences of faith that speak to your spiritual and social needs. With all the challenges of being a young person of faith today, we want to explore with you ways to grow your faith and relationship with God. So we want to talk with you!

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. Parents and youth entering 6th, 7th or 8th grades (and all older youth) are asked to contact Pastor Steve by [email or phone](#) and be part of creating something new together for a deeper experience of faith.

We want to offer something for those advancing from our Children's area to come and share together on Sundays or another day during the week.

OLDER YOUTH... whether you have been through the confirmation class experience or not, you can help other young people grow in their faith by sharing your experience. Maybe you just want a time to listen in and relax with other youth exploring their faith. We want to include you too!

At St. John's, Confirmation isn't just about learning facts or completing a checklist—it's about discovering who you are in Christ and how your faith shapes the way you live, make decisions, and

interact with the world. Whether you've been raised in the church or are just beginning to ask questions about faith, this experience is designed to help you connect with God in ways that are real and meaningful to you. By participating, you'll have a chance to deepen your relationship with God and build lasting friendships with others on the same journey.



What's more, this is not a one-size-fits-all experience! We're excited to offer flexible options that fit into your life—whether that's meeting after Sunday worship, during the week, or in a format that works best for you and your family. We want to walk alongside you, listen to your ideas, and create an environment where faith can flourish in ways that are engaging and relevant to your world today. So, come with your questions, your excitement, and even your doubts—this is a place for you to grow, learn, and find your voice in faith. Come join the conversation! Let's create something new together!

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](#). Our first class session begins OCTOBER 6 following worship!

St. John's Kitchen Corner



Let me share with you a few things today about St. John's kitchen and how to find something. Each month I will pick a different part to walk you through.

Today come walk with me to the back right corner where the pantry is found. As you open the door to the pantry you will find a detailed list on the door of everything that is in there. I

have found that most people don't like to read detailed lists!

So here is a brief synopsis for your reading pleasure. As you enter, the light switch is on the left. To your right is a small walk-in area. On these shelves you will find all paper and plastic goods including plates, bowls, napkins, cups and tableware. On the left shelves, you can find creamers and sugars, storage bags and garbage bags, saran wrap and aluminum foil, straws and stirrers. There are disposable serving gloves and other less-used things on the upper shelves. As you continue your tour to the rear of the pantry you will find fund-raising supplies, to-go and leftover containers, large kitchen supplies, crock pots and other electric kitchen items. The very rear of the pantry holds Colleen's decorative items for special events.

I hope you enjoyed our little tour of the pantry! Now let's talk about money. \$\$ The kitchen is allotted a small budget each year which is used to cover the replacement of paper and plastic goods, coffee and cold drinks for some church social events including Sunday Social hour. All donation money that folks put in the donation bank during social hour is counted each week and handed in to the church treasurer who adds that money towards the kitchen budget so we can continue to stock the kitchen shelves. As you can imagine, since we now have a weekly social hour and many other new events throughout the year, the cost to maintain it all is higher. All of the new appliances and coffee makers in the kitchen were generously donated.

This is all good stuff! We are a “happening” and hungry church! As we begin a new season I am thankful to all who have contributed in any way to keep St. John’s Kitchen a happy place!

Colleen Kulhamer

Trunk Or Treat 2024

On Friday, October 25th, join us at the pavilion between 6pm-8pm for a fun and spooky evening of Trunk or Treat. Dress up if you like and decorate your car to hand out candy and goodies to all the neighborhood ghosts and goblins! In past years we had about 200 children come through the parking lot! If you would like to participate please see Colleen Kulhamer and let her know!

This year, we will also be setting up the pavilion as the HOCUS POCUS DINER to sell \$5 meal deals! Winifred’s Halloweenies, Mary’s Marinara Meatballs and Sarah’s Spooky Spider soup will all be on the menu! There will also be a \$2 drink table with hot coffee, hot apple cider, cold apple cider, water and drink boxes.



Sensational Sunday Socials

Sharing With Friends After Worship

If you've been part of a Sunday Social event after worship, you know how much fun it is to gather around the table with those you know as well as meeting new friends. Our Sunday Social events following worship provide the perfect opportunity to put a name and face together and get to know one another better. Come to Fox Hall following worship and share in the food and fun.

We hope many more will choose to host one of our upcoming Sunday Socials. The sign up sheet to host is located on the red display board at the back of the sanctuary. Nothing elaborate is needed. Our gatherings have been both simple and extravagant. Some have had themes, while others simply brought out old favorite recipes to share with coffee, juice and conversation.

We are building community and connections week after week at St. John's! Thank you to all who have hosted, individuals, families and groups. 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.



Convenience Costs

Using Your Credit / Debit Cards for Your Support

In recent months, the Stewardship and Finance Committee has been looking for ways to make paying for activities, fundraising and events more convenient for those who want to pay using their credit or debit cards. We've learned that these conveniences come with some cost and we want to be sure all are aware. Here's what we need to know and how we all can help.

First, if you use your credit/debit card for transactions, they are encrypted and secure.

Second, please help us cover the costs assessed to St. John's for each transaction.

When using a card for transactions with us, please be aware that there is a \$0.45 transaction fee plus a 2.85 % processing fee that we pay for most major credit cards. American Express has a \$0.45 transaction fee plus a 3.5 % processing fee.



St. John's cannot provide for the convenience without passing along the processing fee. Previously, we had been covering the transaction fee. We now need to extend that convenience cost as well. So, please opt to add the \$0.45 transaction fee to your total and pay the processing fee.

We hope the ability to use a credit/debit card is a convenience and benefit you will enjoy and make good use of in your support of the ministries of St. John's UCC.

Thanks for your faithfulness!

Michelle Gutekunst, Financial Secretary
Rev. Steve Davis, Senior Pastor

Because Of You... in 2024!

Required Minimum Distributions

As we continue our journey together in faith and service, the Stewardship & Finance Committee want to share some important information about a unique opportunity that could benefit both you and our beloved St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

For those over the age of 70 who have Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), we want to bring your attention to the concept of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). This may sound like financial jargon, but we assure you, it carries significant potential benefits for both your financial situation and our community's continued growth and impact.

What is a QCD, you may ask? A QCD is a distribution from your IRA that can be directed straight to a qualified charity — such as St. John's — without counting as taxable income. This means that the amount you donate through a QCD can help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year, effectively reducing your taxable income and potentially lowering your overall tax liability.

Here are some key benefits of making a QCD:

Tax Savings: By directing your IRA distribution to St. John's UCC, Fullerton through a QCD, you can lower your taxable income, potentially leading to significant tax savings. This allows you to support our mission and ministry while also maximizing your tax benefits.

Fulfilling Charitable Goals: Your generous donation through a QCD directly supports the vital work of our St. John's community. Whether it's providing resources for our outreach programs, supporting our worship services, or maintaining our beautiful facilities, your contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Simplicity and Efficiency: Making a QCD is a straightforward and efficient way to support St. John's. The distribution goes directly from your IRA to our organization, eliminating the need for additional paperwork or tax reporting. It's a hassle-free way to give back to the community you love.

We encourage you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity by making a QCD to support St. John's UCC, Fullerton as you consider your 2024 year-end giving, and your start of the year distributions in 2025. If you have any questions or need assistance with the process, please don't hesitate to contact John Viglione or your financial advisor for specific information.

Thank you for your continued dedication to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

Stewardship & Finance Committee



Thank you for all the ways you have shared your support for our ministry, making the difference in lives all across our community.

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. The summer months brought us deficits, as we did not reach our "break even" costs and were under our target goals for advancing our ministry program and staffing support. We trust God and the generosity of our faith community. "God loves a cheerful giver!"

Over the last two years, our Stewardship & Finance Committee has urged our contributors to adopt a consistent "Automatic Contribution" to support the ministry of St. John's all year long. This will help us to maintain meaningful ministry throughout the year.

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

Coming Soon!

Buy a card for \$10 and use it at any area Applebee's for any burger and fries on the menu. Applebee's burgers are priced from \$13 to \$19, so you will save money. Cards do not expire and make great stocking stuffers! See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.



The Ultimate Adventure - Road Rally '24

Buckle up and get ready for a thrilling ride because the St. John's 28th Annual Road Rally is back, and it's bigger than ever! On Sunday, October 20th, gather your team for a day full of laughter, twists, and turns as you navigate unknown roads and solve exciting clues. It's the most fun you can have in a car without even knowing where you're headed!

Join the fun exploring roads you have never seen, then join the crowd for dinner at the end of the journey. Valuable prizes (from the dollar store) will be awarded to those who excel.

Sign-up poster will be in back of sanctuary at the end of September.

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 **October 5 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email QVRRBold@aol.com

Dine & Donate at Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant

Be sure to put this on your calendar and come to the Dine & Donate event at Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant located at 3395 High Point Blvd., Bethlehem (near the Lehigh Valley Airport). It is scheduled for Monday, October 21, from 11am to 10pm.

Menu items include appetizers, salads, soups, burgers, wraps, tacos, wings, chicken, fish, and desserts. gluten-free and children's menus are also available. Dine-in or take-out.

No flyer is needed but be sure to tell the waitress you are from St. John's. The church will receive 15% back from the sales including all beverages.



Church Chuckle



"A preacher thought he was going to a yoga class, but ended up at Zumba instead. He looks around, out of breath, and says, 'This is the loudest meditation I've ever been to!'

Fall Congregational Meeting

Save the Date - Sunday, November 17

Following worship on Sunday, November 17, we will meet in Fox Hall during our Sunday Social and have our Fall Congregational Meeting for the purpose of adopting our 2025 Budget and electing new members to our Consistory leadership. Save the date and plan now to be part of this important time in our faith community.

If You're Looking for These Sales...

We regret to inform you that the following will not be available for sale this year:

- Chocolate Semi-sweet Peanut Butter and Semi-sweet Coconut Cream Bonbons. Ginny Brokenshire, unfortunately, will not be available to make her delicious homemade candy in time for Christmas. Look for future sales of her chocolate covered Easter eggs for Easter 2025.



- Pastie Sale. Scheduling in 2024 does not permit any more sales this year. We hope to schedule a sale sometime in March 2025.

Stay tuned for future announcements on these items.

Giving Made Easy!

St. John's ministry participants now have the ability to use debit/credit card payments for all our many activities and opportunities! You've asked us to make giving even easier. Now we have secure, encrypted transaction systems, 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!

Lady PEEPS

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. The theme for the evening will be "Who was Mary of Magdala?". We will discuss the many stories and strengths of Mary's life and watch a movie that highlights this strong woman of the Bible. Since this is the month of Halloween, Mary may be joining us in her favorite biblical times costume. Feel free to join her and wear the costume of your favorite female biblical character! Ladies, come join us for an evening of learning, laughter and refreshments. Please use the elevator entrance to enter Fox Hall.

If you didn't get the Lady PEEPS schedule for the year in your last newsletter, here it is again!

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

Nut & Fruit Sale

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for the Nut and Fruit Sale. 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. For those of you who missed out on this opportunity, we may have a few extra items to sell from the assortment of nuts, fruit, and chocolate items. Costs vary from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for 1 lb. bags. For information contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Shopping Opportunity at 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. Passes are available in the church office or see Ginny Brokenshire or Tom Moyer before or after worship.



Scrip Gift Card Sales

Hello fellow St. John's UCC members! It's that time of year again! You know the holidays are just around the corner when we start getting ready for our annual Scrip gift card sale. [Use this online form](#) (or attached copy if you receive a printed newsletter) to place an order for all of your holiday gifts. What better way to shop for those on your gift list than with a Scrip gift card? It makes finishing your shopping easy and the gift cards cost so much less to send! While you're shopping, don't forget to add a few on for yourself too. They're great to keep on hand.

If you are interested in making a purchase, please complete the order form and mail with your check payable to St. John's UCC Fullerton, 575 Grape St., Whitehall, PA 18052. Order form and payment must be received by 11/17/24. Gift cards will be available for pick-up on or after 12/8/24. If you have questions, call the church office (610) 264-8421 or Tracey Glass (610) 905-8426. Order forms may also be placed in the offering plate. Happy shopping!!

Fall Walking Challenge Continues

The challenge is September 15 to October 12, offering a perfect opportunity to enjoy the fall leaves, fresh air, and some healthy activity. This is not a competition with others—just a personal challenge to push yourself at your own pace.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Sharon Antrim at sharonantrim@yahoo.com or by phone (610) 216-6207.



Bingo Night - Friday November 8

Mark your calendar

Make plans now

Get tickets early

Bring friends!

This will be another fun night with many surprises! Doors will open at 6pm, with bingo starting at 7pm. Contact the church office (610) 264-8421 or Tom Moyer.

Join us for shopping at our
CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
9:00am to 2:00pm

St. John's UCC, Fullerton
575 Grape St., Whitehall, PA
Fox Hall (Elevator Accessible)

Crafters! Vendors!
Food! Bake Sale!
50/50 Drawing!

Tables may still be available
at \$25 with a signed contract.
Form available on church website

stjohnsuccfullerton.org/forms

or contact:

Kenda Catalini
(484) 358-7453
kpcatalini@aol.com

Giant, Weis, Redner's - You Can Make It Happen!

Whether you shop at the grocery store, order online, or have your groceries delivered, we all need groceries. 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 Karen Stoitsits.

Keeping You in Stitches

Thank you to everyone who came out and purchased our items at the Community Yard Sale in August. We will again have our craft items at the Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 2, from 9am to 2pm down in Fox Hall. In the meantime, if you are interested in any Fall or Halloween items, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com



One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

On Saturday, August 24th, 2024, St. John's UCC held our second annual community yard sale from 8am until 2pm. We had terrific weather for the yard sale and had many people selling their items from jewelry to sports novelty items to Coca Cola collections. There were refreshing drinks available along with doughnuts. The health committee was there to offer free blood pressure checks. It was the perfect day for the yard sale. Thanks to everyone who participated in the event. We can't wait to do it again next year.



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

Sunday, 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.

Monday, Oct. 21 – Dine & Donate at Whelihan’s Pub & Restaurant – 3395 High Point Blvd., Bethlehem (near LV Airport) 11am to 10pm. 15% back to church. No flyer needed. See Mike.

Tuesday, Oct. 22 – Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” – Shop for sales from 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5 pass and church keeps the funds. See Ginny.

Saturday, Nov. 2 – Craft & Vendor Fair – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. Large selection of vendors and crafts. Food and baked goods. Tables still available with contract and \$25 payment. Contact Kenda Catalini at (484) 358-7453 or email at kpcatalini@aol.com.

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

December – Family Movie Night – “Polar Express” & meal. Date & time TBD. See Pastor Steve or Bill.

RaiseRight Gift Cards (formerly Scrip) – Coming soon. Watch for details.

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 Stoitsits	(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 October with the lectionary readings to prepare us for the end of November and the season of Advent / Christmas. Verso-Chat helps us experience the Beloved Community of God and the Spirit of God speaking to us and through us. 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!

Verso-Chat is another great Faith Formation option to help us grow. 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 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>



VERSO-CHAT

Testimonial by Nancy Bowman: "To know is to understand." This, above all, is what Verso-Chat has done for me. Verso-Chat is not just studying the words of the Bible but coming to understanding the context and deeper meaning of these words so that I may more fully enrich my faith. Please consider joining us and helping us to enrich our lives with a better understanding of God's Word.

Get Moving with Zumba at Fox Hall!

Looking for a fun way to stay fit? Join Tara Miller for energetic Zumba classes at Fox Hall! These lively sessions combine upbeat music with dance-inspired movements, making it a great way to burn calories and have fun at the same time.

Classes are held every Wednesday at 6:30pm and Saturday mornings at 9:30am. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking for a new fitness challenge, Tara's class is open to all levels.

Grab your sneakers and come dance your way to fitness! For more information, feel free to contact Tara at taricoco2@yahoo.com



October Birthdays

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

10/02	Joy Gravely Kirby Hower Riley Kulhamer Linda Smith	10/17	Rev Evelyn Stupp Andria Dallago Amy Feidler
10/03	Eireann Hunsicker Patricia Schaffer	10/18	Barbara Seyfried
10/04	Michael Buskirk	10/19	Jo Ann Sutter
10/05	Bailey Kulhamer Sharon Romberger	10/20	Dee Schlenker
10/06	Joan Phillips	10/21	Nicole Fox
10/07	Gary George Mark Geroulo Sr Ted Hess Charles Schwenk	10/23	Isabella Pagan
10/08	James Leibensperger Gary D Neitz Janice Walenta	10/24	Robert Dougherty Wilbur Kline
10/09	Randy Bachman Gary Hallman Ann Patterson	10/25	Michael Baatz David Brown Brinlee Neitz
10/10	Mike Borgman Robert Young	10/27	Donna Herring Marlene Kocher
10/11	Kendal Clewell	10/28	Kristine Gersbach Barbara Menges Janet Miller Randy Schlenker
10/13	Abby Chryst Hoffman	10/30	Melanie Beck Nancy Keister Carol Olson Jacob Powell Stacy Sommer Gary Weaver
10/15	Katelyn Orlowsky Barbara Seeds	10/31	Arbula Dotter



October Wedding Anniversaries

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

10/01	10/14
Kevin & Melody Fox	Jeffrey & Barbara Seeds
10/02	10/16
Margaret & Robert Young	Brian & Tracy Fisher
10/09	10/18
Ronald & Ann Patterson	Elwood & Patricia Thompson
10/10	10/20
Kevin & Kaitlyn Weidner	William & Kathy Roth Sr.
10/10	10/26
Kirby & Lorraine Hower	MaryBeth & Michael McNicholas
10/10	10/27
James & Andrea Leibensperger	Michael & Joy Gravely
10/14	10/30
Christopher & Jennifer Kuhns	Susan & Keith Kaider





Neighbors in Need

"God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth." ~ Isaiah 42:4



This year, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice for All." In 2015, the General Synod of the UCC passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey. World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

Enclosed with this newsletter is a special offering envelope and insert. The NIN offering will be received at worship on Sunday, October 6, and continue to the end of October.

Have You Completed the Climate Hope Voter Pledge Card?

Through past General Synod resolutions, the UCC has made strong commitments to climate action at the federal level of the U.S. government.



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 frontline communities. As Christians, we are called beyond our individual lives to love our neighbor and to care for all of God's creation.

For 2024, the UCC launched its second climate campaign called "Vote for Climate Hope." St. John's is again participating in this campaign. A voter pledge card was in the September newsletter, in the worship bulletin on September 8, and can also be found 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. Completed cards can be turned back into the office or placed in the offering plate. You can also make your pledge online by simply scanning the QR Code on the card. The deadline to return all cards or to pledge online is Sunday, October 13.

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Hunger Walks are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger locally and around the world. This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, starting at 1:30 p.m. 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, Israel, 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. Donations can also be sent into the church office, or by online giving or texting.

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.

When We Serve, We Make A Difference

Our church is a proud and continuing contributor to the Whitehall Food Pantry. Our goal is to collect in September and October 200 boxes or bags of stuffing to distribute on all four Mondays in November for Thanksgiving dinners. Please bring what you can before November and place food in the shopping cart in the foyer. Monetary contributions are also welcome and will go toward turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Should you consider volunteering in the morning or evening of the fourth Monday of the month, please contact Gary Black, (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com. We Serve. We have fun.



Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 6pm. 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 10/1	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Tuesday 10/15	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Sunday 11/3	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695
Sunday 11/19	First Presbyterian of Hokendauqua	3005 S. Front St., Whitehall	(610) 264-9693

“Operation Santa” Coming Soon

Look for more information in the November newsletter. The Mission Committee will give you details on how to make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate as we begin our “Operation Santa” outreach for Phoebe Ministries and Valley Youth House.

How Did Our St. John’s Family Do?

Mission	Aug 2024	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 989.00	\$8,703.00	\$8,520.00	\$10,628.90
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 160.00	\$2,365.00	\$3,255.00	\$ 985.00

Mission Outreach giving for August 2024 totaled \$1,149.00 and YTD giving totaled \$12,198.00.

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 LIABILITES	\$(83,152.33)	\$(83,027.54)	\$124.79
NET FUND BALANCE	\$589,051.38	\$593,401.71	\$4,350.33



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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org

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

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 8:30 Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	7	1 9:30am Staff Meeting	2 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	3 7:00pm Choir	4	5 8:30am Men's breakfast: Hemilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
13 CRP Walk Newseletter Articles Due 8:30 Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	14 Office Closed-Indigenous People's Day	15 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	16 8:30am PNEC Meeting - Fox Hall 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	17 7:00pm Choir	18	19 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
20 8:30 Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class 1:30pm Road Rally	21	22 Boskov's Friends Helping Friends 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm PEEPS - Fox Hall	23 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	24 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	25 6:00pm Trunk or Treat	26 9:30am Zumba class: Fox Hall
27 8:30 Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	28	29 9:30am Staff Meeting	30 9:00am Verso Chat with P.S. 12:00pm Painting Group 6:00pm Painting Group 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm SAA-Recovery Support	31 7:00pm Choir		