



**LUCAS
WILLIAMS**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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Pastor's Message: The Collars of Justice

Inspired by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

I recently ran across a book titled "The Collars of RBG: A Portrait of Justice" which features photos of some of the collars worn by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor. These women were not only judicial icons, but people of great character who could battle with the best legal minds of opposing viewpoints and enjoy the company and conversation, and have deep friendship as well. I love that Justice Ginsburg said "My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent." Justice Ginsburg also said "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." Their iconic collars worn with the judicial robes became an enduring symbol to many of the strength of justice and compassion.

The phrase "Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes" has been appearing frequently, which led me to find its source: Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers. The whole quote is worth our attention: "Leave safety behind. Put your body on the line. Stand before the people you fear and speak your mind – even if your voice shakes. When you least expect it, someone may actually listen to what you have to say. Well-aimed slingshots can topple giants. And do your homework." The most powerful part is "Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes," of course. But the most important part is "Do your homework."



Fear and Apathy are too often our enemies. If we are feeling fear right now, we can't let it immobilize us. What can we do about fear? Take action! That thought may make us afraid, too. That's OK. Push through and past that fear, and get busy. Get into some "Good Trouble!"

William Lloyd Garrison, the great 19th-century abolitionist, has been much on my mind lately, and I was floored when I discovered that he wrote this: "The apathy of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal and hasten the resurrection of the dead." Doing nothing is not an appropriate tribute to Justice Ginsburg - or the late Representative John Lewis, for that matter, or Sen. Corey Booker, in his record breaking, inspiring speech, This Moral Moment.

In the fight for Marriage Equality, I found it important to represent the Christian faith that stands in support of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. I watched my previous denomination be torn apart by rigid ideology which was consistently acting in ways that did not reflect God's ALL inclusive love. So, I found my voice for justice. I started showing up at protests and other events, wearing my clergy collar and stole. There were times I addressed a legislative body or City Council, or even State Senate. I wore the visible symbols of my position and my faith, whether I was on the agenda to speak or simply standing alongside others whose voices I hoped to help elevate with my presence.

We can all do the same, collars or not. Stand up. Show our solidarity. Speak out. Speak truthfully. Speak from a place of knowledge. Speak from a place of compassion. Our words may not be perfect and our voices may be shaking. We are called to a holy work, a moral moment. So join together. Wear your collar of justice, whatever it may be, and together, let us be those who love, in grace and hope. 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



Table of Contents

You Make The Difference	22
A Word from Our Crafters	29
Budget Update.	38
Church Chuckle	28
Consider Making St. John's Your Faith Home	7
Constance Arnold in the News.	17
Convalescent & Homebound Residents	18
Deadline for May Newsletter.	5
Easter Season Worship Schedule.	12
Faith Formation Schedule	10
Grief Support Group Update	20
How did St. John's Family do?	37
In Case You Missed This.....	37
"I Remember It Well" – Reflections at 60	8
Lady PEEPS May Meeting.	27
Let's "Play Ball"	32
May Birthdays	30
May Wedding Anniversaries	31
Men's Breakfast Group	29
Music Ministry	6
Ocean City, NJ Bus Trip	33
Pastor's Message: The Collars of Justice	2
Quinn Family California Wildfires Update	35
Sewer/Crafter Wanted	5
Staff Contacts.	39
Social & Bake Sale	26
St. John's Kitchen Corner.	24
St John's Night At The Ironpigs Party Porch	32
Sunday Socials - So Much More than a Coffee Hour	23
Upcoming "Fun-Raising" Events at St. John's.	25
Update on Other Mission Outreaches.	36
Verso-Chat Bible Study	16
Walking Challenge	17
Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative's Community Meals	35
Whitehall Food Pantry.	34
Yard Sale Canceled.	37

On The Cover...



LUCAS WILLIAMS

My name is Lucas Williams. I am in seventh grade at Whitehall Middle School and play football, basketball and volleyball. Outside of sports, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

I was baptized at St. John's UCC - where my grandmother was the senior pastor. I am currently in the confirmation class and proud of my faith.

Sewer/Crafter Wanted

We are still in need of a sewer to join our Crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches." We are looking for someone willing to help sew our table runners, bowl cozies, baby bibs, etc. Fabric and directions will be provided along with help if needed. Please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or craszler@aol.com if you are interested.



Deadline for June Newsletter

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

Photos or graphics for your article should be sent as attachments to your emailed submission. Please do not send inside a .DOC file.

Music Ministry

We have made it! We are officially in the Easter season! Spring has arrived (although it is questionable first thing in the morning!) What a glorious celebration Holy Week 2025 was! It's hard to believe the 2024/2025 music ministry season is coming to an end in just 6 weeks! It feels like yesterday the excitement of a new season was building and members of the choir and handbell choir were returning from a well-deserved break!

I am truly blest in many ways to serve as the director of music for the men and women who have given up their time for weekly rehearsals, special events, and of course Sunday morning worship. This August will mark my third-year anniversary of being here at St. John's as your Director of Music, I think it is safe to say coming up on that anniversary that our music ministry has grown spiritually and musically as we continue our journey together.

Speaking of journeys and growth, I can't help but notice when I look around the music office, in the corner closest to my desk, sits a stack of empty chairs-five of them to be exact. I can't help but think of what the possibilities are if those five chairs came off the stand they sit on and became home to new members!

This Easter, I can't help but challenge the members of this congregation, as well as the current members of the music ministry, it's time for these chairs to find an owner to sit in them! Imagine seeing our choir go from 23 members to 25/26 members? Imagine seeing our handbell ringers go from 6 to 8 ringers? The possibilities are endless, but **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

What holds you back from wanting to be involved? Are you fearful your not talented enough? That's just silly—this isn't American Idol or the Voice! Are you fearful you won't make every rehearsal? Good news, that is what Sunday morning warmup is all about! Are you fearful of being around a close-knit group of people? Have no fear, once you step through the doors of the music office, it is all about friendship and fellowship! You become part of the family—without cost! And if you want to test the waters, summer is on the horizon, where vocalists are needed!

I truly urge you to take the next few months, especially during this season of spiritual rebirth and new life to really think about being one of the people to fill one of the five empty seats in my office! I have always said and will continue to say that as a director, I am only as good as the people around me—without them, I would just be someone playing the organ and piano, with them, we are able to create and continue the story of our faith through song!

If interested and would like additional information, don't be afraid to reach out! You can email me at music@sjuccf.org or contact me through phone (484) 241-0250

May the joy and love of this Easter season be with you!

Patrick

Consider Making St. John's Your Faith Home



Our next 5G Connection class for those interested in uniting with us and making St. John's your official faith home will take place in May with people being received May 18!

To accommodate busy schedules, we ask participants to attend two of the four session opportunities to be received on May 18. Class dates will be: Sunday, April 27 at 11am, Wednesday, April 30 at 7pm, Monday, May 5 at 10:30am and Wednesday, May 7 at 7pm.

Let Pastor Steve know if you'd like more information.

“I Remember It Well” – Reflections at 60

There’s something about this birthday that feels different. On May 12, I’ll turn 60, and while I don’t mind growing older—I’ve never feared the number itself—this milestone has stirred up something deeper in me. A sense of reflection. A quiet inventory of life. I’ve begun to notice those quiet “I wish I had...” or “I wish I hadn’t...” moments that sneak in when you’ve lived long enough to collect both joys and regrets.

Sixty years of life gives you a lot to remember. So much of my journey has been shaped by family and faith—relationships that were lovingly built, and some, painfully broken. I often think back to childhood, to moments that now feel golden. There were things I treasured so deeply as a kid that I wanted my own children to experience—things I tried to pass on. But life moves differently in different decades. Living far from each other in different states, our experiences naturally became different, too. Still, we found new ways to create connection, to build memories—some planned, some that snuck up on us in the best ways. Maybe not everything turned out how I envisioned, but so much beauty was made anyway.

When I look back, I feel a strong pull of gratitude. I was loved well. That’s a rare and sacred gift. My childhood wasn’t perfect, but it was rich in the things that matter: laughter, guidance, stability, and a deep, abiding sense of belonging. I remember it well.

The church—oh, the church has always been the heartbeat of my story. From early on, it was my center, my compass, my home away from home. It wasn’t just a place I went; it was a people I belonged to. Through their love, I met a Savior who called me by name, and I found a faith that wasn’t just inherited, but chosen. I said yes to that invitation—not just once, but every day since.

God, in God’s mystery and generosity, entrusted me with something sacred: a calling. Over these six decades, I’ve been blessed to serve 17 congregations across two denominations. From tiny chapels to bustling sanctuaries, in towns big and small, each one became a place where my calling took root and grew. Thirty-nine of my 60 years have been spent in ministry, walking with people in moments of great joy and deep sorrow. Baptizing, marrying, burying. Preaching, praying, laughing, crying. It has been the honor of my life.

And then, there’s the sacred chapter of fatherhood. I’m the proud parent of four incredible and unique human beings: Erin, Jacob, Meagan, and Jon. Nothing could have prepared me for the way they would expand my heart. Each of them carries part of me, and yet they’ve all become their own beautiful people in ways I couldn’t have imagined. And now, the joy multiplies—literally—with grandchildren.

I am “Grandpa”—what a title! To three biological grandchildren: Christopher, Jaxson, and Joshua; to three amazing bonus grandchildren: Anthony, Max, and Aerial; and to two more grandsons on the way, Xander and Elishah, still “in development.” Woohoo! What a legacy. What a gift. I remember holding each child, realizing that life was starting all over again in them—and I had the chance to be part of their stories, too.

Coming to understand and embrace my identity as a gay man—and holding that truth alongside being a father and grandfather—opened the door to a more authentic way of living and loving. In time, that truth made space for a loving relationship with my life partner and husband, Bill. Our journey together has looked different than anything I once imagined, but it has taught me that love is far less about biology or labels and far more about truly seeing another person, allowing myself to be seen, and choosing to love with intention and courage. Together, we’ve built a life rich with meaning and unexpected ministry adventures that have taken us to places we never planned. We’ve walked alongside our mothers as they aged with grace and dignity, learning to love them in deeper ways—especially when my own mom came to live with us and we created a home together in Pennsylvania.

There are things I would do differently, of course. Hindsight is a precise teacher. I wish I had slowed down more, worried less, taken better care of myself, definitely called more often and spent the money to visit, even when I didn’t have it to spare. I wish I had taken some more chances, and not taken others. Yet I don’t live in the shadow of regret — I live in the light of learning. And through it all, I remember.


I remember the laughter, the songs, the sanctuary moments, the long car rides, the school teacher meetings, the movie marathons, the moving, the moving, the moving, the moving... lol! And I remember the unexpected grace, the broken pieces that still glowed with love. I remember the people who shaped me, walked with me, and made me better. I remember how faith has never left me, even when I questioned it. God put many commas in my life where I thought life gave me endings. And I remember how love, in all its forms, has carried me — over every mountain and through every valley.

Sixty years. It feels strange, yes. But it also feels sacred. And I remember it well.

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis





FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

and Worship Celebrations!

Sunday Mornings for Children, Youth & Adults

We celebrate faith growth and sharing together at St. John's! Here's what we have to look forward to as we engage in faith formation and worship together to close our program year.

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! Contact Tom and Emilie Moyer for more information. The class concludes the program year on May 18, with a special Pennsylvania Dutch lunch out! There will be no class on May 25 for Memorial Day weekend.

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 or contact Rev. Becca Stephens or Wendy Fox.

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.

UPDATE TO PARENTS FOR COMMUNION SUNDAYS.

On the first Sunday of the month when the congregation celebrates the sacrament of Holy Communion, children who normally participate in "Holy Moly" Faith Formation are invited to a brief craft time with leaders, then returning or may remain in the sanctuary with their family in worship. We know some parents welcome their children participating in the sacrament. Others want their children to wait until they are confirmed or until they have a stronger understanding of the meaning of this sacred meal of love and grace.

At St. John's UCC, Fullerton, we observe an OPEN Communion Table, which means that ALL PERSONS, regardless of age or full understanding of the sacrament, are welcome to receive. After all, how many of us as adults in our faith can fully express or explain the significance of this sacred meal. Children will return or stay with their parents on the first Sunday of the month to accommodate their participation in Holy Communion, as those who observe in participation, or as those who receive in participation. We have both wine and grape juice in the trays to meet the needs of all.

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 YOU ARE... WELCOME HERE! We have created places in the congregational seating for those with mobility issues and assistance support. We are working to make our spaces and worship experience more accessible for everyone, including those with hearing impairment.

Join us each week in the gathering spaces, the classrooms, the sanctuary, online, and with Sunday Social time following worship in Fox Hall. We welcome you into the experience of God's love through St. John's.

11:00am Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th Graders - Youth Room (3rd Floor)

AFFIRMING FAITH

We are in the final month of classes and activities for our Confirmation Class, who will be received in worship on June 1. ALL YOUTH are welcome to come to the youth room during our class time and share with our Confirmation Class as we grow in your faith.

Confirmation Class participants will be visiting with you during our Sunday Social time. Please look for Nicholas Santee, Aiden Hannis and Lucas Williams. Pray for them by name each week for this time of exploring and affirming their own faith. Express your thanks for their worship participation and leadership. Join them in the journey of discovery to affirm their faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Confirmation sessions continue through the end of May with class lessons, worship experiences, service projects, church life, and learning with friends, leaders and mentors. These young men will look to YOU, the people of St. John's, to model what faith looks like. They will witness how you WORSHIP, LOVE and SERVE to create your own "No Matter What" kind of faith. What we live before them matters every single day!

As we make this Affirming Faith journey together, you are invited to get to know these guys and help them know who we are and how our lives have been changed in the love of God.

Easter Season Worship Schedule

God of Light, Love and LIFE!

Christ is risen! The Easter season continues into May until Pentecost Sunday, June 8. The Easter experience bursts with joy, proclaiming the victory of life over death, love over fear, and light over darkness. In the glow of resurrection morning, we declare our Easter message theme: God of Light, Love and LIFE! This is not just a celebration of what happened long ago—it is an invitation to live fully and freely today. The empty tomb speaks to the radiant truth that God's love has no end and no limit. It shines into every shadowed corner of our world, illuminating hope where there was despair, healing where there was brokenness, and joy where there was sorrow.

As we continue to journey through this season of Easter, we do so embracing the gift of abundant life—life that pulses with purpose, connection, and compassion. In the risen Christ, we see not only the promise of eternal life to come but also the call to live fully now in the light of God's presence. This is a life rooted in love that refuses to give up on us, love that empowers us to love boldly in return. Let us be people of the resurrection—carriers of light, bearers of love, and witnesses to LIFE in all its fullness!

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Worship - HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29

or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "That's a Great Trick! Do It Again!"

Join us for a festive weekend of laughing... hopefully at ourselves and with others! As God has shared the ultimate trick on death, the resurrection in the surprise that makes us giggle with delight! The greatest "gotcha!" of all time is Jesus resurrection from the dead, defeating sin and death, and giving us eternal life! We laugh in the face of death!

"O grave, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" We are more than conquerors through Christ who fully loves us! HA HA! LOVE WINS!

Join us as we laugh and celebrate our LIFE in God together!

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Worship with Holy Communion

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "Relationship Restored"

All of us want to be able to come to Jesus with a heart open to his love for us. However, sometimes, our past gets in the way and we feel a barrier of our own making separating us. Jesus not only meets us where we are, but invites us to a renewed relationship and a walk of great grace. And we can hear the Spirit say to us, "May the fourth be with you!" (it is Star Wars Sunday after all, LOL!)

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 11

Worship

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "Tabitha, the Disciple, Lives!"

If you've ever felt spiritually "dead," you know the absolute joy you feel when God turns our experience around and we feel new life and hope where previously we were in despair. LIFE is always present with us, and the choice is ours to receive it.

SUNDAY MAY 18

Worship - Mental Health Sunday

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "A New Commandment"

How have you experienced the love of Christ recently? Are you running low on your ability to share that love with others? Jesus didn't give us a "suggestion" to love, but a model, a lived demonstration of the unconditional love of God for every person. Then he said, "Love each other as I have loved you." Easy! Right?

SUNDAY MAY 25

*Outdoor Worship at the St. John's Pavilion
(Memorial Day Weekend)*

*Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29
or John 5:1-9*

God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "The Water of Life!"

Bring your lawn chair and dress comfortably for worship outside under the St. John's Pavilion! We've enjoyed the warm days of Spring and the signs of new life all around us, so to end our program year and welcome Summer, we will worship together outdoors! Come join the fun!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Worship & Communion

Receiving our 2024-2025 Confirmation Class

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97,
 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26
God of Light, Love and LIFE! - "You Will Receive POWER!"

The ultimate gift of God for us on this side of eternity is the gift of God's Spirit! Jesus promised us God's abundant life, here and now! This LIFE is filled with great POWER! Celebrate the growth of the spiritual lives of our Confirmation Class - Nicholas Santee, Aiden Hannis and Lucas Williams as we welcome their Affirming Faith.





God Is Still Speaking...

Verso-Chat Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9am

Looking for a fresh, meaningful way to engage with scripture? Join us every Wednesday morning for Verso-Chat, a weekly Bible study where we explore the scriptures together and listen for God's "still-speaking" voice.

Verso-Chat is a welcoming space for everyone — especially if traditional Sunday School isn't your thing or if you're new to the Bible. Whether you're full of questions, ready to learn, or simply want to grow in faith, you'll find community here.

This Spring our conversations will follow the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Easter season that shape our Sunday worship — deepening both study and spiritual connection through experiencing God's gift of LIFE for us!

Come laugh, learn, and discover how the Spirit moves among us. Every session is a chance to hear God's voice in new and powerful ways. All are welcome. Click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to join the conversation.

Interested in an evening option? Reach out to Pastor Steve via email to learn about a new Verso-Chat PM group starting this Spring/Summer on Wednesday evenings.

Let's explore God's Still-Speaking Word together!

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



VERSO-CHAT

Walking Challenge

The 2025 St. John's Spring Walking Challenge is already underway, but you can still join us! Running from April 27 through May 24, this friendly challenge is a great way to enjoy the sunshine, get moving, and build healthy habits. Whether you're a seasoned walker or just starting out, all you need is a step-tracking device and a good pair of walking shoes. It's always a good time to get healthy!

Contact Sharon Antrim at sharonantrim@yahoo.com or (610) 216-6207. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors—the more, the merrier! Let's step into spring together with energy, enthusiasm, and community spirit.



Constance Arnold in the News

A 30-year veteran of child care, St. John's member Constance Arnold leads the newly opened River Crossing YMCA Child Care Center in Whitehall, providing nurturing, high-quality early education for children from six weeks to pre-kindergarten.

<https://www.lehighvalleynews.com/business/healthy-and-positive-learning-experiences-new-river-crossing-ymca-child-care-center-opens-in-whitehall>



Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel	Sally Gibson	Dale Millham
Larry Albright	Ron Glass	Karen Moyer
Phyllis Ambearle	Gus Geissinger	Mary Jane Ott
Anita Beil	Roberta Haberern	Helen Ryer
Clarence Biehn	Lucille Hicks	Madeline Slivka
Sherry Castello	Geraldine Keim	Bert Smith
Shirley Downing	Emma Repp Kuczek	Leona Snyder
Jeanne Fischl	Bill Meckes	Nancy Weaver
Milton Focht	Gayle Mihulec	Bonnie Weikel

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



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Grief Support Group Update

The Grief Support Group will meet on Monday, May 20 (instead of May 27). Regular meetings will continue on the 4th Tuesday of each month starting in June.

4 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	5 10:30am New Members Class	6 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship and Finance	7 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm New Memb 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
11 Newsletter deadline 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Sunday Worship-Palm Passion 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class	12	13 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	14 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
18 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Sunday Worship-Palm Passion 10:30am Social Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class Rehearsal 1:00pm Friendship Class Lunch at Deitsch Eck	19 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	20 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEEPS	21 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
25 8:30am Friendship Class 9:30am Children's Faith Formation 10:30am Social Hour 6:30pm Iron Pigs Party Porch	26 Office Closed	27 9:30am Staff Meeting	28 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 6:30pm STARS Meet 7:00pm SAA-Recovery

2025

Wednesday				Thursday				Friday				Saturday			
				1				2				3			
				9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir				6:00pm Kentucky Derby Bingo				8:30am Men's Breakfast at HamFam			
7				8				9				10			
t with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall ers Class y Support-Room 302				6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir								9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall			
4				15				16				17			
t with Pastor Steve Group roup k Hall y Support-Room 302				6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir				6:15pm Confirmation Class Lock-in				9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall Noon Confirmation Class Lock-in Ends			
1				22				23				24			
t with Pastor Steve Group roup k Hall y Support-Room 302				6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir								9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall			
8				29				30				31			
t with Pastor Steve Group roup k Hall ting y Support-Room 302				6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir								9:00am Basket Social			

2025 Together We Are Stronger You Make The Difference

A Heartfelt Thank You and Invitation to Deepen Your Support

Dear Friends,

Time and again, your generosity shines brightly, uplifting the ministry of St. John's through your gifts of compassion, commitment, and care. Whether supporting special needs, mission work, outreach projects, or fundraising events—you make a real difference. Thank you!

Each month, our Stewardship and Finance Committee shares the good news of what's possible when we come together in faith to build a community grounded in love, hope, and justice. Your contributions empower not only our church family but also the wider world we seek to serve.

As we look to the future, our goal is not just to meet our needs, but to exceed them—to grow, to reach further, and to extend our ministry's impact. This vision can only be achieved together. My family and I have taken time to reflect on how we can grow our giving, and we invite you to do the same.

At our Annual Meeting in February, Treasurer Sue Weldner reminded us that even small, consistent increases in giving can have a big impact on what we can accomplish together. We warmly encourage you to consider increasing your regular contributions in 2025—whatever amount is meaningful for you.

And if you haven't yet become an Automatic Contributor, we invite you to explore this easy and reliable way to support our shared ministry. Michelle Gutekunst and our team are happy to help you get started. No gift is too small—every offering is a building block in the work we're called to do together.

With heartfelt gratitude as we continue to worship, love, and serve,

**The Stewardship and Finance Committee
The St. John's Consistory Leadership
Rev. Steve Davis**

P.S. Automatic giving helps bring consistency to our financial planning and ministry efforts. Reach out anytime—we're here to help make it easy for you to support the mission you believe in.



Sunday Socials - So Much More than a Coffee Hour

Join Us for Sunday Social – and Help Host!

Each week after worship, we gather in Fox Hall for our Sunday Social – a time to enjoy good food, meaningful conversation, and deeper connection within our faith community. Whether you're catching up with old friends or meeting someone new, this time together helps us build relationships and extend the circle of welcome to all.

We invite you to be part of this ministry of hospitality! Take a look at the available Sundays this month and sign up to help host a Sunday Social. You can sign up on your own, with a friend, as a family, or as a group. If you've been blessed by the care and effort of others, consider paying it forward and creating that same warm experience for someone else.

Sign-up is easy—just visit the red display board at the back of the sanctuary, or call the Church Office and let Alison know which Sunday you'd like to help. Colleen Kulhammer is always happy to give a quick orientation to the Church kitchen if you'd like a hand getting started.

No need to go over the top! Whether you bring a themed spread or stick to coffee, juice, and favorite treats—sweet or savory, simple or special—it's your presence and heart for community that matter most. We hope you'll join in the fun and help make Sunday Social a continued blessing for all.

St. John's Kitchen Corner



The aroma of delicious homemade soups and breads of every variety filled the air in St. John's kitchen and Fox Hall on Wednesdays during Lent. Thank you to all who prepared soup or brought breads, drinks or desserts for these meals. It's nice sharing a meal with friends on these evenings.

For those who have signed up for Sunday Social Hour each week or helped me in the kitchen in anyway, I am most grateful. St. John's hungry people look forward to this after service gathering each week. We have been averaging between 50-70 people. I see so many smiles, caring conversations, laughter and happy children from my view at the kitchen window. It brings me joy and everyone is grateful for whatever is on the food tables.

If you can sign up to do social hour on any Sunday with some friends or your family or as a St. John's committee, it will be greatly appreciated. The kitchen always supplies the paper goods and drinks. I always make the coffee and take care of setting the tables and supplies up in advance.

You decide what you want to bring and make sure it is on the food tables by the end of the Sunday service. It can be a little or a lot. It can be theme driven or not. Just keep in mind that the average amount of mouths looking for a small taste of sweet or savory to have with their drink, is about 60. I will come down to finish up the coffee and make sure all is ready right after the Choir's anthem.

If you sign up please help serve the drinks and clean up after social hour is done. I am there to help you as needed but sometimes I need a break. I may from time to time put extra items out on the food tables if the kitchen has extra food to share. If you have any questions or fears about signing up for social hour PLEASE just talk to me. I will ease your anxiety and help in any way that I can. Remember that St. John's kitchen is a HAPPY kitchen and I love taking care of her!

Colleen - the kitchen manager

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

Friday, May 2 – Kentucky Derby Gift Card Bingo – 6pm doors open. 7pm bingo begins. Tickets \$20 In advance; \$25 at the door. Food available to purchase. 50/50 drawing & tricky tray. WEAR A HAT! See Tom.

Sunday, May 25 – IronPigs vs. Buffalo Bisons Party Porch at Coca Cola Park – 6:35pm. Cost \$40 includes ticket & meal. Fireworks. Deadline to reserve tickets April 27. See Tom.

Saturday, May 31 – Basket Social & Bake Sale – 9am to 2 pm in Fox Hall. Cost \$5 for 26 tickets. Tickets drawn at 11:30am on June 1. See Amy or Carol.

Sunday, June 1 – Basket Social & Bake Sale – 8am to 9:30am and 10:30am to 11:30am in Fox Hall. Cost \$5 for 26 tickets. Tickets drawn at 11:30am. See Amy or Carol.

Saturday, June 28 -- Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ -- Bus leaves St. John's 7:30am. Bus leaves Ocean City 7pm. Cost \$50. Enjoy a day on the beach or on the boardwalk. See Amy or Brian to reserve our seat.

Tuesday, Aug. 5 – IronPigs vs Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders at Coca Cola Park – 7:05pm. Cost \$14 Includes ticket & food voucher. "Dollar Dog Night" where hotdogs are only \$1. Deadline to reserve tickets is June 15. See Carol.

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

Redner’s Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. Please do not roll the register tapes or submit receipts from other stores. See Karen.

Look for upcoming Dine & Donate Restaurant opportunities soon.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Amy Feidler	(835) 210-5944	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746

*If you are looking for a way to get involved,
contribute to St. John’s AND have fun doing it...
consider being part of the Fun-Raising Committee!
Contact anyone on the committee for details.*

You Won't Believe What You'll Find at St. John's Basket Social & Bake Sale!

Saturday, May 31 – 9am to 2pm

Sunday, June 1 – Before & After 9:30am Worship

Drawing at 11:30am on Sunday in Fox Hall

Imagine finding baskets with gift cards from restaurants and stores, an assortment of wines, books, puzzles, and items made by our St. John's crafters "Keeping You in Stitches." Then, if you're looking for baskets with special themes, we have basket assortments of music & theater opportunities, Eagles & Penn State merchandise, baking supplies and groceries, baby items and children's activities, gardening and bird feeding accessories, snacks and candies, and various holiday decors.

If you're a collector, we have baskets with snowmen, gnomes, angels, and cookbooks. The list is endless, and you don't want to miss it!

Sheets of tickets (26 tickets per sheet at \$5.00) will be available ahead of time on Sundays before and after worship as well as on the dates of the Basket Social.



There will be a variety of baked goods available for sale on both days. Some of the goodies that day will include Moravian cakes, funny cakes, cut-out cookies, and wet bottom shoofly pies.

We ask you to bring in your basket donation no later than Sunday, May 18, and your baked goods donation on Friday, May 30, or no later than 8am on Saturday, May 31.

If you have any questions or would like to donate a basket or baked goods, please contact Amy Feidler (835) 210-5944 alfeidler@gmail.com or Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 craszler@aol.com

The Basket Social has its own song! [\(LISTEN HERE\)](#)

Lady PEEPS

Lady PEEPS May Meeting

Hello Lady PEEPS! Lady PEEPS stands for Positive, Extraordinary, Encouraging, Prayerful, Sisters! We are the Women's Group at St. John's. Every month we meet from September through May with a variety of program themes and activities. All women ages 18 and over are welcome to come to any of these meetings. Our last meeting of this season will be Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30pm in Fox Hall.

We will be going back in time and celebrating the 80s with popular foods, games and other surprises! Come dressed in your best 80's clothing and hairdos and enjoy this fun evening with friends. This will be a meal, so bring your appetites with you and please use the elevator entrance.



Church Chuckle



*At a church picnic, a basket full of apples had a sign saying,
"Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."*

*On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies
where one of the children had placed a sign saying,
"Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."*



Opportunity Knocks

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

Save the register tapes from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoitsits. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include receipts from other stores. We recently received \$51.37 back from Redner's for receipts totaling over \$5,100.

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. You also get discounts for gas at both stores. Gift cards can be purchased from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before and after worship.

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

A Word from Our Crafters

Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" at the Easter & Spring Craft Sale in March. We were able to turn in \$497.00 to St. John's.

If you like to sew, we continue to ask for help in sewing our table runners, baby bibs, bowl cozies, and other craft items.

Our crafts can be purchased at any time during the year by simply contacting Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or by emailing her at craszler@aol.com

Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **May 3 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

May Birthdays

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

5/4	Nancy Bennett	5/18	Sandra Nagy
5/6	Geraldine Falk	5/19	William Roth Sr.
5/8	Robert Czekner	5/20	Lori Fink
	Robin Brensinger	5/21	Thomas Moyer
5/10	Bailee Neitz		Ricardo Venanzi
5/11	Robert Schlenker	5/22	Ronald Eichman
	Hunter Miller	5/23	Sherry Castello
	Craig Hanzl		Jamie Kulhamer
5/12	Rev. Steven Davis	5/25	Sandra Glass
5/13	Ryan Szoke	5/27	Seth Bergeris-Cortright
5/14	Grant Brobst	5/28	Teresa Schwenk
	Josef Raszler		Amy Romberger
	Fortress Chryst		Janet Black
	Donald Brensinger	5/30	Tammy Yura
5/15	Nancy Dougherty		Danielle Powell
	Roberta Borgman		Judith Barron
5/16	Judith Sommer		
5/17	Jennifer Rarich		
	Lucille Schneck		



May Wedding Anniversaries

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

5/02/1992

Lee Ann & Robert Lopez

5/03/2008

Craig & Lauren Schutts

5/04/2002

Joseph & Kenda Catalini

5/07/2011

James & Janet Ebert

5/08/1999

Keith & Wendy Fox Jr.

5/12/1979

Karen & Frank Stoitsits

5/12/2012

Julia Gross & Thomas Gross III

5/17/2003

George & Jill Williams

5/18/1968

Gary & Shirley George

5/22/2010

Ashley & Ricardo Venanzi

5/24/2015

Jesus & Staci Pagan

5/25/2013

Jennifer Rarich & Eric Lord

5/25/1986

Susan & John Weldner

5/25/1974

Ernest & Candra Zellner Jr

5/28/2017

Bill Castello & Steve Davis

5/30/1982

Lisa & Alan Weiner

5/31/2002

Sandra & Steven Nagy



St John's Night At The Ironpigs Party Porch!

Sunday, May 25 at 6:35pm (Memorial Day Eve)

Tickets are \$40, which includes:

- Admission to Coca Cola Park
- Your seats on the Party Porch (First base side)
- Ironpigs baseball game vs Buffalo Bisons
- Picnic Buffet from 6-8pm
- Unlimited bottled water and soft drinks
- Easy access to restrooms
- FIREWORKS FOLLOWING THE GAME!

See Tom Moyer to make your reservation. As always, we will have a great time!

Obscure Fact: The IronPigs were almost named the Keystones before the team settled on their now-iconic name. "IronPigs" is a play on the term "pig iron," a raw iron material used in steelmaking—paying tribute to the Lehigh Valley's deep industrial roots. The name was chosen through a fan contest, and despite being unconventional, it beat out more traditional names because it captured the spirit of local pride and grit.



Let's "Play Ball"

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 104 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game. Game day is Tuesday, August 5, at 7:05pm. The cost is \$14.00 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ballpark credit, and a raffle ticket. It'll be Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs are only \$1.00. So, mark your calendar—we won't be taking reservations and payment until later in the Spring. Please contact Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 or craszler@aol.com

Ocean City, NJ Bus Trip Saturday, June 28



St. John's is headed back to the shore! Pack your beach chairs, blankets, swimsuits, suntan lotion, and walking shoes for a full day of sun, sand, and fun in Ocean City, NJ on Saturday, June 28. The bus will depart from the church parking lot at 7:30am and leave Ocean City at 7pm, giving you plenty of time to enjoy the day at your own pace.

Whether you want to stretch out on the beach, stroll the boardwalk, shop, or indulge in shore favorites like Manco & Manco pizza, Johnson's Caramel Corn, or Kohr Bros. frozen custard, this trip is always a highlight of the summer. Come with friends or make new ones—everyone is welcome!

The cost is \$50 per person, covering round-trip bus transportation. Space is limited! To reserve your seat, check with Amy Feidler or Brian Fisher. Let's enjoy a beautiful day at the beach—together!

Don't forget to bring sunscreen, a water bottle, and a hat to stay cool and protected throughout the day. If you'd prefer not to carry cash, many Ocean City boardwalk vendors accept cards or mobile payments. Pack lightly, wear layers, and get ready for a refreshing change of scenery with your St. John's family!



Whitehall Food Pantry

If you've been thinking about volunteering at the food pantry or if you are curious about the work being done there, we invite you to come visit us to see what the pantry is all about. Our church volunteers meet at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located at 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall on the 4th Monday of each month.

At the morning session (9 am – 11 am) donated food arrives from Giant, Weis, Redner's, Chick-Fil-A, and from local churches in the area. About 50 % of the food supplies, which the pantry pays for, comes from Second Harvest Food Bank. The food, which consists of canned goods, fresh produce, breads, and baked goods, is then sorted and placed on shelves and tables. Meats, prepared foods, and dairy products are sorted and placed in refrigerators and freezers until the evening.

At the evening session (5:30 pm – 7:30 pm), the patrons who come are assigned to one of our volunteers called "cart masters." They will take a grocery cart and accompany each patron to assist in the food-selection process, help bag the items, and load their cars. Other volunteers assist the patrons with choices of perishable food items that are available.

For the month of May, we are continuing to collect pancake mix, jelly, and coffee. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coat-room area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text.

For more information, contact Gary Black, St. John's liaison to the food pantry, at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative’s Community Meals

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4pm – 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	Place	Address	Phone
Sunday, May 4	Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	3355 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall	(610) 435-0451
Tuesday, May 20	Whitehall Active Community Center	2301 Pine St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday, June 1	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. 5th St., Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, June 17	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 7th St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

Quinn Family California Wildfires Update

Our former Visitation Pastor, Rev. David Quinn, reported on Facebook that his family was affected by the California wildfires at the beginning of the year. Pastor Dave’s son Ben and daughter-in-law Jennie were renting a house in Altadena, California, a little town north of Los Angeles on the edge of the San Gabriel Mountains.



As Pastor Dave wrote, "One Tuesday night back in January, high winds were driving the wildfires down the mountains. They were told they had an hour to evacuate. They threw what they could in the car and drove off. The fire went through their neighborhood like a blowtorch. All that was left behind was incinerated. Now they have come to Bethlehem and are staying with a friend and working on rebuilding their lives. What have they lost? Everything, almost. What do they still have? People who care."

Over the last several weeks we have been asking for monetary donations to help Pastor Dave's family recover from the wildfires. As this newsletter goes to press, we have collected \$900.00 because of your generosity. We are grateful for your acts of kindness and for your many prayers.

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

Thank you to everyone who contributed to UCC National's special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing." A total of \$340.00 was received. OGHS helps those impacted by poverty, hunger, sickness, conflict, emergencies, and natural disasters worldwide. It provides financial relief for immediate and long-term needs and supports disaster response, refugee assistance, and development projects.

"Souper Bowl of Caring" Update: Additional cans of soup were received a bit late but that brought the count to 354 cans of soup and \$160.00 in cash contributions for the Whitehall Food Pantry.

Total contributions for the California Wildfires 2025 Appeal, which came to a close at the end of March and amounted to \$1,585.00, were sent to UCC National. Thank you for everyone's support.

We sent \$1,050.00 to UCC National, representing your donations for the Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund and for those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	March 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,107.00	\$3,215.00	\$3,662.00	\$3,282.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$375.00	\$985.00	\$825.00	\$1,440.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$315.00	\$340.00	\$425.00	\$565.00
California Wildfires 2025 Appeal	\$210.00	\$1,585.00	N/A	N/A
Disaster Relief Fund – Ukraine	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$130.00	\$790.00
Quinn Family Wildfires	\$850.00	\$850.00	N/A	N/A
"Souper Bowl of Caring"	\$1.23	\$160.00	\$245.00	--

Note: We are no longer receiving donations for Ukraine Disaster Relief Fund, Israel & Hamas Middle East Support, California Wildfires, and General Disaster Relief Fund.

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, April 12. It was entitled "Experience Holy Week as a Journey of Reflection." Inspired by [Luke 19:37](#), the article reflects on the events leading from Palm Sunday into Holy Week. As the biblical events play out, Pastor Becky asks us "What does the future look like? Where is life leading you? The road ahead, where is it going? So many options, yet some things just happen, and you are left on this road of life trying to figure out how to deal with whatever has come your way." To read the entire article, you can find the link by going online at www.mcall.com/2025/04/12/faith-values

Yard Sale Canceled

We regret to announce that the Community Yard Sale originally scheduled for Saturday, June 21, has been cancelled.

BUDGET UPDATE

	Actual	Monthly Budget	% to Budget
OFFERINGS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES	\$19,985	\$18,331	109.02%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS	\$114	\$85	134.12%
FLOWERS INCOME	\$731	\$150	487.33%
SPECIAL GIFTS	\$207	\$208	99.27%
FUNDRAISING INCOME - NET OF EXP	\$2,939	\$1,000	293.95%
ENDOWMENT INCOME	\$-	\$-	
RENTAL INCOME	\$2,651	\$1,417	187.09%
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,626	\$21,191	125.7%
PASTORAL SERVICES	\$(10,405)	\$(10,259)	101.43%
STAFF SALARIES & EXPENSE	\$(9,272)	\$(9,330)	99.38%
BUILDING SERVICES	\$(3,553)	\$(3,488)	101.87%
FAITH FORMATION	\$-	\$(104)	0.00%
PARISH PROGRAMS	\$(1,403)	\$(1,919)	73.10%
FUNDRAISING TITHE	\$-	\$-	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$(24,633)	\$(25,099)	98.1%





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The Church Eternal

*"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me but also to all
who have longed for his appearing." - 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

During the first quarter of this year, six persons from our congregation became part of the Church Eternal. While never easy to release those we have deeply loved, we trust God to hold them close and keep their memory alive through us. For their spirited presence, their heartfelt service, their generosity of friendship and their abundance of love we offer our gratitude for each one and for the time they were part of the congregation of St. John's UCC, Fullerton. We mourn their passing. We celebrate their lives. We rejoice in their being at home in the fullness of God's love. For the gifts of their lives we say "Thanks be to God through our Lord, Jesus Christ!" And all God's people said, "Amen!"

With grateful hearts, we remember:

Adrianne "Adie" Kiesbar (93)

Born to Life Nov 15, 1931 - Born to Life Eternal January 28, 2025

Owen W. Eberhart, Jr. (85)

Born to Life February 10, 1940 - Born to Life Eternal March 8, 2025

Marilyn "Jean" Piskula (86)

Born to Life August 4, 1938 - Born to Life Eternal March 16, 2025

Sandra Diefenderfer (78)

Born to Life August 11, 1946 - Born to Life Eternal March 24, 2025

Nancy Ann Bowman (85)

Born to Life August 1, 1939 - Born to Life Eternal March 27, 2025

Arline E. Yoder (91)

Born to Life November 30, 1933 - Born to Life Eternal March 27, 2025