



NO  
MATTER  
WHAT!

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 19 • Issue 160 • January 2026

## Pastor's New Year Reflection

### "What History Are We Making?"

As we step into a new year together, I find myself returning to a simple but searching question: What history are we making? Not the kind that will fill textbooks or archives, but the quiet, holy history that unfolds in the daily life of a congregation - our choices, our compassion, our courage, our witness and our love.

One verse keeps accompanying this question: Jeremiah 29:11— "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your wellbeing and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." These words, spoken to a community living far from home and facing an uncertain future, remind us that God's story always bends toward hope. Even in seasons of upheaval, God is at work shaping a future that leads us toward life.

We live in a world that feels increasingly chaotic. The headlines can be heavy, the pace of change dizzying, and the pressures around us unrelenting. Yet the church has always been shaped not by the calmness of the world, but by the constancy of Christ. We do not wait for perfect circumstances to be faithful; we bring the light of Christ into the circumstances we have. This is our history-making work.

Throughout Scripture, God's people found themselves in confusing and uncertain times. Still, God invited them to create a different kind of story - one marked by love, justice, hope, and steadfast presence. Jesus did the same. Surrounded by conflict, division, and overwhelming human need, He chose compassion over cynicism, mercy over judgment, and healing over fear. He made history not by overpowering the world, but by loving it fully.

So the question for us is both challenging and full of promise:

How will we embody the love and hope of Jesus in this particular moment? St. John's has not been shy about making history in the past. What will it look like for us in the year to come?

We make history.

We make history every time we speak kindness instead of criticism.

We make history when we welcome someone who feels alone.

We make history when we show up - steadily, consistently, imperfectly - for one another and for all those who are "othered" in the community around us.

We make history when we risk generosity in a culture of scarcity.

We make history when we let grace soften what the world has tried to harden.

The church does not exist to escape chaos; it exists to bear witness to God's presence within it. Our calling is not to be perfect, but to be faithful. And faithfulness, lived over time, creates a history worth passing on - a history that says to future generations, "They loved well. They hoped boldly. They gave their best effort. They stood up, spoke up and made sure to rise up to the challenge. They trusted God through it all."

Jeremiah's promise assures us that God's plans are still unfolding - plans for our well-being, plans that ground us in hope rather than harm. When we choose love, when we enact compassion, when we build community, we align ourselves with that divine future and participate in the history God longs to create with and through us.

As we enter this new year, may we listen carefully for the ways God is inviting us to shape the story of our life together. May we choose the kind of history that reflects the heart of Jesus. And may our church continue to be a place where light, courage, and welcome are made visible - one act, one choice, one day at a time.

With gratitude for the history we've made and hope for the history still unfolding, we are the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton, where...

**"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...



For three years, this newsletter has opened with a familiar and beloved rhythm: one face, one name, one story—month after month, reminding us that the church is not a building, but a living community made of real people, real faith, and real care. Those covers have mattered. The format has been familiar on purpose: it has quietly said, month after month, “You belong here.”

January’s cover looks different because this moment feels different. Many congregations are navigating uncertainty, and some are even closing their doors. St. John’s is choosing a clear, confident response: not shrinking back, not coasting, but stepping forward with renewed purpose and a public-facing message about who this church is called to be, in and for the community.

That’s what “No Matter What” means. It’s a statement of identity and intention—steadfast welcome, steady compassion, and a willingness to lead with hope when it would be easier to play it safe. This January, we are looking past the traditional list of New Year’s resolutions. Instead, we are making a bold commitment to the future. We are capitalizing on the incredible generosity and spirit that has brought us this far, using it to fortify our foothold in this community. We are moving forward with intention, ensuring that our legacy is one of active, dynamic faith.

The coming year will ask something of each of us, and it will also offer a beautiful opportunity: to strengthen what has been built, to widen the circle, and to invest in what lasts. When St. John’s shows up consistently—with faith, courage, and open hands—neighbors notice. And a church that is clear about its calling becomes a beacon: not just for the people already inside, but for the people still looking for a place to belong.

Let January be a fresh beginning—grounded in gratitude, shaped by vision, and lived out together, No Matter What!

## Music at St. John's

*I've heard it said  
That people come into our lives for a reason  
Bringing something we must learn  
And we are led to those who help us most to grow  
If we let them and we help them in return  
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true  
But I know I'm who I am today, because I knew you*  
-For Good by Stephen Schwartz from "Wicked"

If you asked me what a music ministry was 12 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people singing a song that they'd rehearsed. If you asked me what a music ministry was 6 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people having fun, learning songs and then singing them for the congregation to add to the worship service.

Today, I can tell you that a music ministry is a family. A music ministry is held together, not by mutual interests or blood, but by a love of music and prayers in the form of music we sing. A music ministry is a family that has bonded over the hearts they have poured into their music, a family that may not always like each other or see eye to eye but in the end, always have love and respect for each other; a family that doesn't give up on anyone. A music ministry is more than just a bunch of people singing a song they've rehearsed, or ringing bells. It is hours, days, months and years of commitment all built on top of itself!

In case you missed the memo, I am a HUGE "Wicked" fan. I had the opportunity to see it on Broadway for my 24th Birthday and now that the movies are out, I can not help but put the soundtrack on and think I have the range of Glinda or Elphaba! (a boy can try no?) So you're probably thinking ok, so how does the song "For Good", from "Wicked", tie into this article about music ministry being family? Well, here is your answer.

As I reflect on the close of 2025 and the start of a new year, I can't help but smile at how much work and dedication has taken place these last 3 ½ years. Another reason for smiling is being able to see a program grow with new members and new bonds of friendship. I laugh when I keep thinking of how I always make the choir at times

sound like Julia Child when they pronounce their vowels or hearing members say, oh, he's gonna stop us because that was a trainwreck!

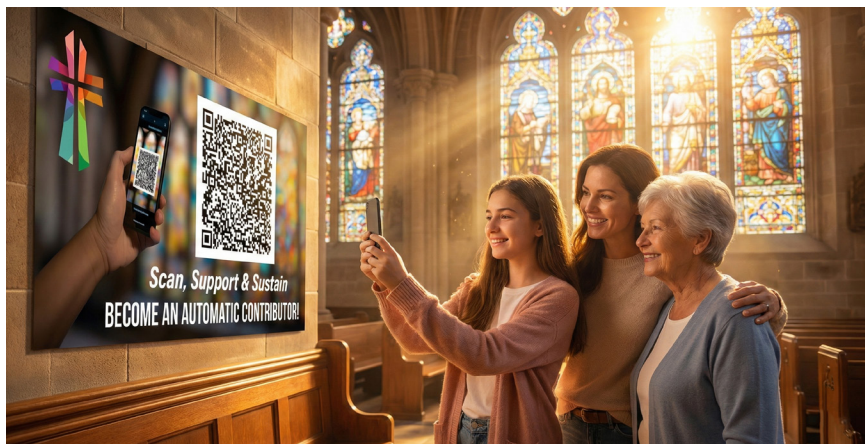
As 2026 begins, I can't help but think how these individuals have changed me "for good." I often share with the choir when they try to praise me and thank me that it is never about the director, at least in my eyes and opinion, but rather the choir members or handbell ringers who put in the work to make a dream reality. I am not the person singing four different voice parts or holding two bells in my hands—they are. These people are the ones creating something incredible that allows the congregation to sit back, listen and reflect on what they are hearing. In other words, a director is only as strong as his/her music ministry! It's the incredible talent of these women and men who help me realize, because I know them, I have been changed for good! In the story of "Wicked," it was the friendship between Glinda and Elphaba that never stopped—changed yes, but stop? No!

So as we begin a fresh new year here at St. John's, I invite you, the reader of this article, to consider becoming involved with this "family." Whether it be through the choir or ringing bells, every voice and bell ringer counts! Consider it, pray about it, and let's make 2026 a year of memories together for the Church and Music Ministry of St. John's. And for the faithful members of the music ministry, thank you—thank you for coming into my life and changing me "For Good."

Musically Yours,  
Patrick



## We LOVE ~ Giving to Make a Difference



At St. John's, we give because we believe generosity changes lives - including ours. We are deeply grateful for the steady, faithful giving that fuels our ministry. Every gift strengthens our mission partnerships, supports our community outreach, and sustains the worship, learning, and care that shape our life together. Week after week, your generosity turns compassion into action.

Each month, Pastor Steve and the Stewardship & Finance Committee share stories that highlight the impact of your giving. These reminders show the kind of church God is forming through us - a community that cares deeply, welcomes widely, and shines Christ's light well beyond our walls.

As we look ahead, we hope not only to sustain our vibrant ministries, but to grow them - reaching more people with Christ's message of welcome, love, and service. That future depends on all of us working together and doing our part. While we are meeting most of our expenses, we are still consistently falling short of our monthly giving goals. We anticipate a 2025 year-end deficit. There's still time to make a difference.

An effective way to strengthen St. John's is through automatic recurring giving via ACH (Automatic Clearing House - a direct transfer from your bank). ACH giving is simple, secure, and provides consistent support throughout the year. Even better, it significantly reduces processing fees, allowing more of your gift to support ministry.

Would you consider becoming an automatic ACH giver or increasing your current recurring gift?

Michelle Gutekunst and our finance team are ready to help - it only takes a few minutes to set up, and it creates a lasting impact. With your partnership, we can finish 2025 in the black and begin 2026 with a strong and steady foundation.

Every gift matters. Every gift helps us share Christ's love with the world. Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and partnership. Together, we will keep answering God's call with open hearts, open hands, and hopeful spirits.

**REMINDER 2025 Year-End Giving Deadline is Sunday, December 28!**

Please be sure all contributions to be counted for 2025 are received in the church office by that date to be included in our final deposit for 2025. Giving statements will be printed ON REQUEST only. All others will be sent by email to help save on printing and postage.



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

Try it now!





# EPIPHANY SEASON & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

As we prepare to enter the season of Epiphany, we step into one of the most radiant moments of the church year — a time when the light of Christ breaks open the ordinary world and reveals the extraordinary grace at its heart. Epiphany celebrates the moment the Light was made known not just to a few, but to the whole world. It is a season of joyful recognition: God has drawn near, incarnation has taken on flesh, and the world has been changed because of it.

But after the star's brilliance fades and the Magi go home by another road, the church moves into what we traditionally call "Ordinary Time," and the color returns to green. This shift invites a faithful question: "Now what?"

If Epiphany reveals the Light, then "Ordinary Time" asks what that Light does.

What does the light of Christ awaken in us? How does it shape our choices, our spirit, our daily rhythms? And, perhaps most importantly, what do we do because that Light has been revealed?

Our upcoming worship series will invite us to sit with these questions. Each week, we will explore the many ways God's glory shines into our lives: sometimes boldly, sometimes quietly, sometimes in places we didn't expect. We'll reflect on how the presence of Christ

illuminates our attitudes, our relationships, and our sense of purpose. And we'll consider how we might become bearers of that same light in a world that still longs for hope, healing, and grace.

Since you receive the January 2026 Connections Newsletter before Christmas Eve, be sure these are on your calendar:

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**

*Christmas Eve Carols, Communion and Candlelight*

**An Invitation to Christmas Eve Worship**

6:00pm (Pre-service music begins at 5:30pm)



Christmas Eve at St. John's is always a moment filled with wonder, warmth, and sacred beauty. As we gather on this holy night, we'll be welcomed into worship by the music that prepares our hearts, the beloved carols we know by heart, the joyful ringing of the bells, and the choir's anthems that lift our spirits toward the mystery of God's love.

In the glow of this night, we will hear again the story of God's breathtaking gift to the world: Jesus, the Christ Child. We will come to the table to receive Holy Communion, welcoming Emmanuel, God with us, into our lives anew. And as candlelight spreads from hand to hand, we will stand together in the quiet beauty of a hope that still transforms hearts.

Come celebrate with your St. John's faith family as we worship the Babe of Bethlehem and rejoice in the miracle of love born among us. May this night fill you with peace, joy, and a renewed sense of God's presence.

**NEW SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

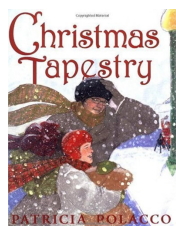
Christmas Eve Ecumenical Service, 11:30pm at St. John's UCC, Mickleys will share the tradition of scriptures and carols to lead us to Christmas Day. The congregation anticipates this as their last Christmas service as they will close in September 2026. They invite all who love the "midnight service" tradition to attend.



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

### *Carols and a Christmas Story*

9:30am Worship



Join us for a warm and relaxed worship service on the Sunday after Christmas—a perfect moment to breathe deeply, linger in the joy of the season, and gather with your St. John's family.

Come just as you are: wearing your new Christmas clothes, your coziest holiday sweater, or whatever feels most comfortable for this cheerful, casual morning together.

We'll sing many of the season's favorite carols and share in the spirit of hope that still shines brightly after Christmas Day. Pastor Steve will share ***Christmas Tapestry***, by Patricia Polacco, a beloved holiday story that weaves together faith, compassion, and the surprising ways God works in our lives.

Come enjoy a gentle, joy-filled service that lifts our hearts with music, story, and the lingering glow of Christmas grace.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

### *Epiphany Sunday & Holy Communion*

Lectionary Readings for Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.



Epiphany is all about light. The star in the sky leads the Magi to Jesus, the light of the world, the revelation of divine love who came to dwell among us. This is certainly a Sunday to contemplate and demonstrate the light reflected around us.

Celebrate the gifts of the Magi and the promise of God to protect the Holy Family as God's guiding spirit leads them and still guides us today. This first Sunday of 2026 will invite us all to consider how we prepare for challenges and blessings of the new year as we begin with Holy Communion.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

### *Baptismal Renewal Celebration*

#### **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;  
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17.



Remembering the baptism of Jesus, we come to renew the covenant we have in God's unconditional love. This moving time invites us to claim our faith in Jesus Christ and our identity as beloved children of God, using the waters we have gathered from around the world as part of our sacred time of renewal.

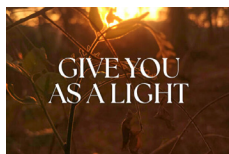
Baptism of the Lord Sunday is not just preaching about Jesus' baptism, but centering our worship around the connection between Jesus' baptism, our baptisms, and our baptismal identity as the Body of Christ. It shows us that baptism is about initiation into community with God and one another, and Jesus shows us the way into this community through his baptism.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

### *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

#### **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1  
Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42



As we journey further into the season after Epiphany, we continue to reflect on the many ways God's glory is made known in our world. Epiphany reminds us that the light of Christ shines brightly, revealing God's heart to all people. Yet this week's reading from Isaiah 49 invites us to look at that revelation from a different angle: not only does God's glory shine to us, it also shines through us.

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, and at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are reminded that God's servants are called to be bearers of light and healing in a world longing for justice, peace, and reconciliation. Through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks a bold truth: that our lives, our witness, and our work can be

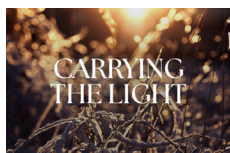
vessels of divine glory in ways far beyond what we imagine.

Today, we gather with a spirit of remembrance, unity, and hope, ready to listen for how God continues to reveal glory in us and through us.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

### *Health and Human Services Sunday*

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;  
Matthew 4:12-23



The light has come. We've received the light and the call to bear the light to all the nations. Got it. Can do. Easy right?! Well...maybe not.

The rubber meets the road when we begin carrying the light into a world that likes to hide things in the shadows, push people to the margins, and threaten anyone who declares that things should be otherwise. We quickly discover that carrying the light doesn't get rid of fear. But, as the psalmist demonstrates this week, the light does show us how to not let fear control us and keep us from living in the glory of God's salvation.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

### *Holy Communion*

### **Annual Meeting and Potluck following Worship**

Lectionary Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12.



At the center of worship today is...worship. Micah 6:1-8 is about worship. Now, we can get caught up in the final three verses of this passage, which, to be fair, are profound and worth deep exploration. When we get to verses six through eight, we find out that the fruit of what we do outside the walls of the worship space matters more than what happens in the worship space.

## Annual Meeting and Potluck

February 1 Following Worship

**Reports due January 5**

Every year, we gather to share our year in review as well as our plan moving forward for the year to come. At our Annual Meeting, we will note those whose membership relationship with St. John's has changed, those who have passed to the Church Triumphant, and those who have been received in covenant relationship with us. These are important and sacred moments of witness.

We will also present our plan for utilizing the estate gift of Adrienne Keisbar. Various ministry area groups have prepared project ideas with estimates of funding needs. The Stewardship & Finance Committee and Consistory have reviewed the projects and shared recommendations to advance these opportunities to grow and improve our facilities and our outreach. They will also share a recommendation for retaining a portion of the estate funds to be added to our endowment to provide for ministry support for years to come.



# Keystone

CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

There will also be some minor language changes to our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate the transitions from the Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) to the new Keystone Conference UCC in 2026, being in the governance model of the Mountain Valley Association.

In addition, each area of our ministry, and there are many, share a report of their activity in 2025. Our focus this year builds once again on our mission affirmation... "We Worship, We Love, We Serve - No Matter What!" Each ministry area is asked to describe how our ministry has risen above challenges and changes to grow St John's. Reports are due to the Church Office by January 5 to give time for preparing our Report Book. The congregation will gather in Fox Hall following worship. Bring your favorite food item to share. Our lunch will be potluck.

## Look at our Cross Video

Since January 2022 we have used this Kaleidoscope Cross as our St. John's logo. We have created a wonderful video to share its origins and how it was developed. This cross is used on our website, in our YouTube livestream and on our digital bulletins. Because we don't often print our publications in color due to the cost, we often miss the beauty of the digital publications and presentations that help others come to experience St. John's for the first time.

We intentionally share and visually communicate our warm and inclusive welcome to the community and congregation, reminding us and all others that "you are... welcome here!"

To see the video and more information about the design and creation of the St. John's cross, please click this link. <https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/about-st-johns> or visit our website.

To St. John's UCC:

We want to thank the walkers, sponsors, and other donors who raised over \$30,000 last month through the Greater Allentown and Bethlehem CROP Hunger Walks on behalf of our food-insecure neighbors. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will return to the Lehigh Valley to benefit such ministries as the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Churches' Conference Kitchen in Allentown, as well as Essentials Café and several food pantries in Bethlehem. The remaining funds are used to aid disaster relief, development, and resettlement efforts world wide. CROP Hunger Walk funds have been used recently to assist those devastated by flooding in the U.S. & by the war in Ukraine. What a wonderful tribute to one very tangible way in which congregations work together with businesses, local political and community leaders, schools and other groups and individuals to help our neighbors in need!

Rev. Dianne Kareha

Convener, Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

## Un-Decorating after Epiphany

After the festiveness of Christmas and celebrating Epiphany as we begin the New Year, our place of worship returns to its regular simple beauty as we gather. Our worship reminds us of who we are as those who proclaim Jesus as the Light of the world, each and every day.

Putting away our decorations in an orderly and organized manner doesn't magically happen by elves. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Come help return our building spaces for our regular activities and welcoming atmosphere following worship on Sunday, January 4. Stay for the Sunday Social and help us put away our treasured keepsakes and decorations and reset our space for worship, learning, fellowship and service together.

It doesn't take very long if we have several handy helpers. Please contact Patrick Sandt if you can help!

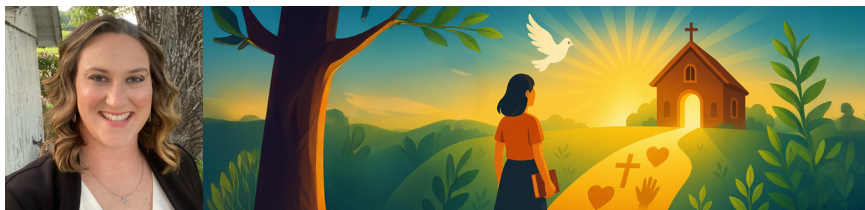
Dear Friends at St. John's:

The coalition of churches that makes up the Whitehall Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your generous contribution of food and money to our pantry. As you are aware, our mission is to serve those facing food uncertainty, and with the limited food supply through Second Harvest and increased food prices, your contribution is more important than ever. Your support at our mission is what allows us to continue the work of sharing God's love. Thank you for your love and support.

God Bless You,

Judy Ehret

Whitehall Food Pantry



## **New Year, Epiphany, and Growing Faith at Every Age**

January always feels like a fresh start. Children head back to school with stories to tell about winter break and excited to share what Santa put under the tree, teenagers try to remember their routines full of band practice and sports, and adults look at a brand-new calendar wondering how we got here so quickly. Whether or not we make formal resolutions, the turning of the year invites all of us to reflect, reset, and imagine what might be possible.

The church's calendar meets us in that moment with Epiphany, the day we remember the Magi following a star toward something they didn't fully understand. Children latch onto the sense of wonder in this story; the sparkle, the journey, the mystery. Adults appreciate the courage it took to follow a light without a clear map. And some of us may even recognize ourselves in the quiet, faithful openness that carried the Magi through unfamiliar terrain. It is a story roomy enough for all ages.

Epiphany also gives us a few delightful details that spark curiosity: early Christians actually celebrated the Feast of Epiphany long before they celebrated Christmas, and the Magi were neither kings nor necessarily three in number. Epiphany is about more than recognizing Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi, readings for this season also include narratives such as Christ in the temple as a boy, his first miracle at the wedding of Cana, his baptism, as well as other passages that emphasize the divine nature of Jesus of Nazareth.

As we step into a new year, Epiphany gently shifts our focus from resolutions, which can sometimes feel like pressure, to practices that help us grow in faith. For our children, this may look like exploring new Bible stories, practicing small acts of kindness, or learning to talk to God and pray in their own way. For older youth and adults, it might take the form of setting intentions, making space for quiet



reflection, or looking for God's presence in everyday moments.

I recently had a conversation with someone during fellowship hour about the beauty of the intergenerational life that happens in the church. Our lives and our experiences overlap in the most simple but meaningful ways. A child's curiosity reminds adults to stay open; an adult's steady reflection becomes a model for younger eyes; an elder's wisdom anchors the whole community. Epiphany teaches us that following the light is something we can do at any age and in every season and requires just one small step at a time. May this new year bring clarity, gentleness, and enough light for each of us, no matter our age or our pace, to find the way forward.

## **Sunday Socials**

### **Building Belonging**

At St. John's, we believe something holy happens whenever we gather around food and friendship. Whether it's a potluck, a mid-week meal, or a simple cup of coffee after worship, sharing food and conversation draws us closer to one another — and closer to God.

That's why we're excited to continue investing in our Sunday Socials, our after-worship fellowship time where we slow down, laugh, reconnect, and celebrate the gift of community. These simple moments around a table may seem casually planned, but they are building belonging and add to the heartwarming connection to our church family.

And here's where you come in: we're looking for Sunday Social hosts! Hosting is easy, meaningful, and a wonderful way to offer hospitality. You can host on your own or gather a friend or two — either way, your presence helps every person who walks through our doors feel welcomed and at home.

Ready to sign up? Simply stop by the red display board at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office and let Alison know which Sunday you prefer.

Curious about the kitchen? Colleen Kulhammer is happy to give you a quick tour and answer any questions. Let's keep cultivating a community where food, fun, and fellowship flourish. Please sign up to host a Sunday Social and help keep this joyful tradition thriving!

## Bazaar Update

The Bazaar held on Saturday, November 8, was a huge success! Gross sales for that day amounted to \$3,384.75 that included sales in 12 departments, the kitchen, candy & bake sales, and sales from our crafters "Keeping You in Stitches." We can't thank everyone enough (31 department heads & helpers) who helped during the week and that Saturday plus the candy makers and bakers; soup & chili makers; kitchen staff; members of the choir; countless people who sorted, setup and priced items; people who helped tear down; and the volunteers who loaded and dropped off unsold items to the Salvation Army and Goodwill in Whitehall. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to everyone who brought in your "treasures" for us to sell and to the many buyers who came out that day and purchased items and grabbed a bite to eat.



Thank you St. John's Family for your support,  
Amy Feidler & Carol Raszler (Co-Chairs)



## Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations

### Epiphany - A Season of Light, Revelation and Response

This season is an opportunity for an attitude check, not in the sense of correction, but in the spirit of alignment. Epiphany reminds us that God's light has already dawned. The rest of the season of Epiphany is considered "Ordinary Time," which invites us to ask whether our lives reflect that brightness. Are we living with gratitude? With compassion? With courage? With joy? Are we willing to let Christ's light not only comfort us, but also change us?

As we move into this new season together, may we embrace the gift of Light that is Jesus the Christ. And may we stand confidently in the promise that God's glory continues to be revealed - around us, within us, and through us.

Let's walk forward with open hearts, ready to be illuminated, transformed, and sent.

### **GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (G.I.F.T.) CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Our Confirmation collaboration with UCC Greenawalds and Grace UCC, Allentown, has now completed four months of activities. Please pray for the 11 people going through our G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Confirmation Class from the 3 congregations. Pray for our confirmand, Ryan Szoke. The class will meet for lessons at St. John's in January, meeting the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm.

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Here are some things you can take part in to grow in faith and celebrate God's presence:

- Verso-Chat Lectionary Study - Wednesdays at 9am on Zoom
- Friendship Class – Sundays at 8:15am, a time for adult study and sharing

## Meet Our New Consistory Members for 2026

At our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 16, 2025, the congregation affirmed the nominations of a new Elder and 3 Deacons for the class of 2028. We are still hoping to have a young person to serve as our Youth Deacon.

Elder - Linda Powell

Deacons - Rev. Janet Boyd, Bobbi Pope, Mike Aggripine

Our sincere thanks for the three years of service given by Elder, Wendy Fox, and Deacons, Sharon Antrim, Kathy Roth and Tyler Shankweiler.

Consistory meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm and are open to all, including participating on Zoom. Contact the church office for the link to participate or join us.

To St. John's Family:

I just wanted to send a thank you to co-chairs Amy and Carol for the fantastic job they did with the Bazaar! This was my first bazaar in over 30 years, and it brought back such wonderful memories of Dubbs, so I thank you for inviting me to participate. I had a great time, and it was a wonderful day. To Bill and his kitchen staff, all the volunteers, and Gary—great job! It was so great to see everyone pitching in, and now I have this memory with my new church family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and blessings to all.

Sherri Gangewere

St. John's Member

## Generosity with New Opportunities

St. John's is blessed with great generosity! So many of you give to a variety of ministry opportunities. As new persons come to our congregation, and as ministry needs change over time, we offer new ways to make certain your contributions have the most significant results.

In 2024-2025, we shared generously in disaster relief efforts, especially when there were multiple natural disasters to which we were trying to respond. Now at the end of 2025 and looking to 2026, we will be shifting any "General Disaster Relief" donations to Missions in the more general category.

The congregation voted in October 2025 to move forward with current contributions and the estate gift to fund the Elevator Modernization Project. Once again, at the end of 2025 and now moving forward, we ask you to reallocate "Elevator" funds to either reducing our Pavilion Loan or to the Property Needs funds. Both are ongoing projects and funds that can use our faithful support.

For those who were not part of St. John's before the Pavilion's completion in 2021, the congregation has a 30 year mortgage on the Pavilion property. Our lending rate was low and our interest rate on investments has been quite good, so we are choosing to pay the mortgage down monthly and make money on this long-term loan. Many in the congregation made a 3 year pledge to help construct the pavilion. We invite everyone to help us pay down this loan over the years to come.

Thank you for the tremendous spirit of generosity you share and for your faithful and consistent support. Your stewardship of resources is creating a season of blessing at St. John's.

# January

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or

[www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter)

4	5	6	7
8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour		9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recover
11	12	13	14
<b>Newsletter deadline</b> 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour		1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recover
18	19	20	21
8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	<b>MLK Day - Office Closed</b> 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:30pm PEEPS	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00pm Christmas 7:00pm SAA-Recover
25	26	27	28
8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour		9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Class	9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recover

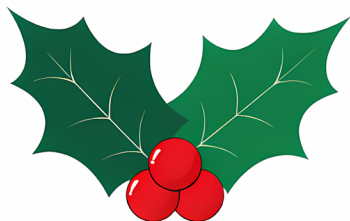
# ry 2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day - Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>3</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast-Ham Fam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>7</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group < Hall y Support-Room 302	<b>8</b> 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>9</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>10</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>14</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group < Hall y Support-Room 302	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>16</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>17</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>21</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group Eve Service y Support-Room 302	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir	<b>23</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>24</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
<b>28</b> with Pastor Steve Group Group < Hall y Support-Room 302	<b>29</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>30</b> 5:30pm St. George Church School	<b>31</b> 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall





***Beloved and Affirmed***  
***The Open and Affirming Coalition***  
*artwork by Rev. Derek Torrey*



*In this season of wonder, we remember that  
God's love breaks every boundary and  
embraces every one of us.  
May this Christmas renew your courage,  
expand your joy, and deepen our shared  
commitment to a truly affirming church.*

*The Open and Affirming Coalition  
United Church of Christ*



## **Lady PEEPS**

The January meeting of the Lady PEEPS (Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters) will be in Fox Hall at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 20. Please contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more or assist with making this event a wonderful time for everyone.



## **Applebee's Burger Cards**

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 with each card. Card does not expire.

See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.



## "SaveAround Lehigh Valley" Books 2026

### Give You Savings for a Whole Year

These coupon books contain hundreds of buy one get one free, 50% off, plus many more discount offers; and includes a 12-month Savings App with over 400,000 of additional local and national offers...save on the go. It features the most popular merchants locally and in our area.



Whether you are shopping for restaurants (dining and fast food), food, clothing, sporting goods, fun and recreation activities, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, the SaveAround coupons make life more affordable and helps St. John's raise funds for the church. A sample copy for you to view can be found on the table in the lounge area.

The cost of the coupon book is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to St. John's. When you receive your book, be sure to read the book's front cover to register your App for thousands of additional local and national savings on your phone. Books can be purchased through the church office or see Carol Raszler any Sunday before or after worship.

## 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 **January 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 Pastor Steve.

## Survey Says: TOUCHDOWN!

The Excitement is Building: Tailgate Party & “Church Family Feud” Friday, February 6 at 6pm. As the NFL playoffs heat up and the road to Super Bowl LX begins, the excitement is mounting at St. John’s, too! Whether or not your favorite team makes it to Santa Clara, our “Fun-Raising” Committee invites you to a championship-level evening of fellowship.

We are planning a Tailgate Party and “Church Family Feud” Game Night, because this committee isn’t just about raising funds—it’s about raising spirits and having FUN together!

### HERE IS THE GAME PLAN:

**Wear it:** Put on your favorite team jersey or colors (even if they aren’t in the Super Bowl).

**Bring it:** Bring your favorite tailgate dish to share.

**Play it:** Get ready to enjoy a festive evening of “Church Family Feud” with your St. John’s family.

Stay tuned for more details in the worship bulletins and the February Connections Newsletter!



## What's the Difference Between "Super" Bowl and "Souper" Bowl?



While we may not know at this time what teams will be in Super Bowl LX, we do know it's scheduled for Sunday, February 8, at 6:30pm at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. It is said that tickets may start at the ridiculous price of between \$6000 and \$7000. Imagine how that amount of money could be used elsewhere in the world!

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at a church in Columbia, SC. This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food, and fun, to unite the nation in a higher good?

Since then, more than \$220 million has been generated by local churches across the country through "Souper Bowl of Caring." Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money, serve at hunger-relief charities, and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

St. John's will tackle the concerns of hunger in our community and participate in the "Super Bowl of Caring" the entire month of January up to the Super Bowl in February. We ask you to bring cans of soup during this time and place them in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. All donations will go to the Whitehall Food Pantry. Our goal is to collect 250 cans of soup this year.

The excitement continues with a Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Family Feud Game Night on Friday, February 6. Besides the festivities of a good meal of chili, cornbread, and dessert at 6pm, we will divide into teams to play Family Feud. Everyone is asked to bring a can of soup. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the lounge area.

Finally, game day kick-off is on Sunday, February 8, starting at worship. Our Confirmation Class will have soup pots available to make monetary donations, and we encourage everyone to again bring a can of soup. Wear something showing your favorite football team.

**BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM AS WE TACKLE HUNGER.**



## Sharing Christmas Joy with Our Homebound Members

Thanks to St. John's generosity, the Visitation / Homebound Ministry once again created Christmas Bags to share our joy in the holidays with our members who cannot come to us any longer. Our list of homebound members has grown, and because of St. John's generosity and faithfulness, we prepared 30 Christmas gift bags with LOTS of goodies to be delivered. Pictured below is a sample of the abundance shared with visits in December.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for all the ways you help St. John's share with our homebound that they are remembered, cherished, and deeply loved.

Carole O'Connell adds: "Had a great visit with Milton. Obviously, he loved the gift!!!"



—The Visitation / Homebound Ministry





## Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Shirley Abel  
Phyllis Ambearle  
Anita Beil  
Clarence Biehn  
Sherry Castello  
Shirley Downing  
Jeanne Fischl  
Milton Focht

Sally Gibson  
Gus Geissinger  
Sandy Glass  
Tracy Glass  
Lucille Hicks  
Geraldine Keim  
Bill Meckes  
Dale Millham

Karen Moyer  
Mary Jane Ott  
Helen Ryer  
Bert Smith  
Leona Snyder  
Nancy Weaver  
Bonnie Weikel

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

## Deadline for February Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the February newsletter, please email [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, January 11.

If you have photos to accompany your story, please attach them to your email. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

[Style guide recommendations here](#)

## Upcoming Pastie Sale

It's time for our biannual Pastie Sale. These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl and come frozen. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following:

Traditional Beef, Beef (no onion), Traditional Chicken, Italian Sausage, Traditional Ham, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Cheeseburger, Philly Cheese Steak, Mexican Burrito, Pizza, Veggie Melt Pastie, Spinach Melt Pastie, Fruit Turnover Pastie.

An order form is included with this newsletter and is also [available on the church's website](#) or on the table in the lounge area. Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, April 9, or Sunday, April 12. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 1. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



## **Bus Trip to Sight & Sound: "Joshua"**

June 3, 2026

Get ready for an inspiring day! St. John's is planning a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, to see their new show, "Joshua."

The bus leaves St. John's at 8am for an 11am show. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a buffet lunch at Yoder's Restaurant.

Total Cost: \$150 per person (Includes show ticket, bus, driver tip, and buffet lunch).

Reserve Early! A \$75 deposit per person is needed to hold your spot. See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler to sign up!



### **Beware Of Scams**

As a reminder, if you receive a text message or email supposedly "from Pastor Steve" or any other staff person, asking you to respond to a need or by purchasing something, these are scams and email phishing. Please DO NOT open or reply to these messages. Block the number or email address and delete the message.

If you ever question a message, please call Pastor Steve or contact the church office to confirm. Thank you! Let's help keep each other safe from these predatory practices.



## God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat: Exploring Scripture Together

Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

Looking for a weekly way to stay grounded in Scripture? Verso-Chat offers a welcoming, open-hearted space to engage the upcoming Sunday lectionary readings with curiosity, honesty, and a deep attentiveness to God's still-speaking voice.

Join us on Wednesday mornings for thoughtful, Spirit-led conversation. Whether you're new to Bible study or longing for something more reflective than a traditional verse-by-verse approach, Verso-Chat creates room to wonder, question, and listen together for how God's Word is shaping our lives today. Can't attend in person? Each session is recorded and available upon request.

As we journey through the seasons of the Christian year, our readings draw us into themes of hope, light, compassion and calling, and community — helping us recognize God's presence in the everyday practice of following Jesus. Together, we discover how these ancient texts continue to form the way we love, serve, and grow as God's people.

Everyone is welcome. Click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to learn more. Interested in an evening option? Let Pastor Steve know — we're always open to creating new groups.

Come discover something new in Scripture each week at Verso-Chat.

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



# VERSO-CHAT



## Prayer Shawl Ministry: Sharing Prayers and Love

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides handmade shawls and prayer squares to comfort those facing illness, grief, or hardship. These gifts serve as tangible reminders of God's presence and our community's support, saying to the recipient: "You are held. You are remembered."

We extend our deepest thanks to Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held, and all who have contributed their time and talent.



### How to Participate:

**Request a Shawl:** Contact the church office with the name of someone in need. A shawl will be displayed before worship so the congregation can pray over it. Afterward, you or a pastor can deliver it.

**Create:** If you knit, crochet, or quilt—or want to learn—please contact the Church Office to join this ministry.

**Pray:** Please pause at the display near the sanctuary entrance to offer a prayer over the shawls waiting to be shared.

## Grocery Shopping is as Easy as A, B, C

Whether you drive to the grocery store to shop, order online, or have your groceries delivered, we all need groceries. Do you realize that by purchasing Giant and Weis gift cards and by saving Redner's register tapes you are contributing money to St. John's?

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

For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back from its "Save-A-Tape Program." The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include receipts from other stores. If you have any questions, see Karen Stoitsits.

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

**GIANT®**



**Gift Cards**

**REDNER'S**  
WAREHOUSE MARKETS

**Receipts**

**Grocery Shopping =  
Giving Back to St. John's**

**Buy Giant and Weis Gift Cards  
from St. John's**

➔ You spend the full value.  
The church receives a percentage.

**Save your Redner's  
Tape**

➔ Redner's donates 1% of your  
total back to St. John's!

**Every receipt counts. Every grocery trip helps.**



## Upcoming "Fun-Raising" Events at St. John's

**Month of January up to Sunday, February 8 – "Souper Bowl of Caring" –** Bring cans of soup all month long & place on shelves in coatroom area. Goal is 250 cans. Donations go to Whitehall Food Pantry. See Carol.

**Friday, February 6 – Super Bowl Tailgate Party & Family Feud Night –** 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. Menu includes chili, cornbread, dessert & beverage followed by teams playing Family Feud. Bring a can of soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring." Wear clothing of your favorite team. Signup sheet in lounge area or call the church office. See Amy.

**Sunday, March 1 – Pastie Order Deadline –** Order forms available in this newsletter, on church's website or on table in lounge area. See Carol.

**Friday, March 13 – St. Patrick's Gift Card Bingo –** Doors open at 6pm, followed by the games at 7pm. Food available for purchase. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. 50/50 raffle and Tricky Tray. Tickets will be available shortly through the office or see Tom.

**Sunday, March 15 – Phantoms vs. Penguins Hockey –** 3pm at PPL Center, Section 121. Tickets cost \$28 per person. See Brian F. for ticket reservation.

**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.

**Lehigh Valley SaveAround Coupon Books 2026 –** Discounts to restaurants (dining and fast-food), stores, sporting goods, fun & recreation, reliable services, car rentals, etc. Cost \$25. Good all year. 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.

**Now taking reservations for bus trip to see "Joshua" at  
Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster on Wednesday, June 3.  
Includes meal at Yoder's. Cost \$150. See Tom.**

### Committee Contacts:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

Ginny Brokenshire	(610) 439-0443	Carol Raszler	(610) 393-7572
Bill Castello	(651) 492-1399	Karen Stoitsits	(610) 262-0746
Pastor Steve Davis	(610) 264-8421	Lori Stocker	(610) 703-2666
Brian Fisher	(610) 762-1134	Brian Strauss	(610) 248-9119
Tom Moyer	(610) 432-3372		

## January Birthdays

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

Jan 2 .....	Patricia Thompson	Jan 15 .....	Jacob Hannis
Jan 3 .....	DonnaLee Yeatts	Jan 16 .....	Kimberly Hannis
	Guy Schwen		Jean Fennell
	Carole O'Connell	Jan 18 .....	Lori Stocker
	Chace Miller	Jan 20 .....	Lorraine Hower
Jan 4 .....	Susan Rarich	Jan 23 .....	Dorothea Biehn
Jan 5 .....	Georgine Long	Jan 25 .....	Natalie Schutts
	Nathaniel Kuhns		Rev. Dennis Schappell
Jan 6 .....	Christina Bach		Betty Shankweiler
	Doris Hunsicker	Jan 26 .....	Olivia Powell
Jan 7 .....	Milton Focht		Robert Jones
Jan 8 .....	Constance Arnold	Jan 28 .....	Edward Pollitt
	David Fritzinger Jr.	Jan 29 .....	Paul Raszler
Jan 9 .....	Brenda Pascoe	Jan 31 .....	Ronald Patterson
Jan 10 .....	Emilie Moyer		Rev. John Hoff
Jan 13 .....	Cathy Kuhns		Philip Robinson
	Brian Deutsch		
	Clarence Biehn		



## January Wedding Anniversaries

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

1/24/2009

Philip & Michele Robinson

1/24/1970

Carole & Dennis O'Connell



## Phantoms playing WBS Penguins

Do you hear what I hear? Do you want to see the Phantoms Hockey team in action at the PPL Center?

Time: 3pm.

Cost: \$28.00 per ticket.

Day: Sunday March 15

Section: 121.

Come and have a fun afternoon with fellow St. John's Member's! If you are interested, please email me your name, phone number, and how many tickets you need. My email is [brianfish2001@yahoo.com](mailto:brianfish2001@yahoo.com)  
Thanks, Brian Fisher



## **“Souper Bowl of Caring” Tackles Hunger**

As football’s Super Bowl is approaching and for the month of January up to Super Bowl Sunday on February 8, we are collecting cans of soup for the annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” drive. Our goal is to collect 250 cans of soup. Donations can be placed in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. Monetary contributions are always accepted as well and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given by online or text giving. All donations will go to the Whitehall Food Pantry.

Did you know that:

- Over 47 million people in America or 1 in 7 households experience food insecurity. That means they have no access to a nutritious, affordable diet or know where their next meal will come from.
- 13 million children in America or 1 in 6 households experience food hunger.
- More than 50 million people in America turn to food assistance programs (food pantries, food banks, community organizations, etc.) for extra help.



Be sure to read the article in this newsletter about our Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Family Feud Night on Friday, February 6, from 6pm to 9pm in Fox Hall. A meal is included followed by teams competing on Family Feud. Activities will continue on Super Bowl Sunday where the Confirmation Class will have soup pots available for you to contribute financially. For both events, wear clothing of your favorite football team and bring a can of soup for “Souper Bowl of Caring.”



## Start Off the New Year by Helping at the Food Pantry

St. John's has made a commitment to help at the Whitehall Food Pantry on the fourth Monday of every month. Volunteers are needed in the morning from 9am to 11am to sort food supplies and stock shelves. Volunteers are also needed in the evening from 5:30pm to 7:30pm to distribute food to pantry clients. The Whitehall Food Pantry is located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall. If you would like to help or learn more about the food pantry, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email him at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) Gary says, "Volunteers are urgently needed—you'll find this outreach both rewarding and a fun experience."



Thank you to everyone who made donations towards Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the pantry. For the month of November, we received 259 boxes of stuffing mix and \$1657.49. Items needed in January are soup for "Souper Bowl of Caring," coffee, pancake mix, and pancake syrup.

## "Ho-Ho-Ho" – You Made Santa Very Happy!

It was truly heartwarming how successful our "Operation Santa" Mitten Tree Project was this year. Thank you for your donations of \$955 to Phoebe Ministries and \$590 to Pinebrook Family Answers for a total of \$1545. Because of you, the children and youth at Pinebrook received gifts on their Christmas wish list, and the residents at Phoebe were given gift certificates to Phoebe's gift shop and to Phoebe's beauty salon/barber shop.

## 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	Place	Address	Phone
Sunday, 1/4	St. Peter Roman Catholic Church	4 S. Fifth Street, Coplay	(610) 262-2417
Tuesday, 1/20	Whitehall Active Community Center	2301 Pine Street, Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Sunday, 2/1	Muslim Assn. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, 2/17	St. John Baptist Church (Social Hall)	3024 S. Ruch Street, Coplay	(610) 730-3184

## Update on Other Outreaches

We will continue to receive donations for The Christmas Fund until December 28. It is an annual UCC offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need. It provides direct assistance to supplement pensions; helps with the cost of medical insurance; gives thank you gifts at Christmas; and supplies funds to meet emergency needs.

## How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	Nov. 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 971.00	\$10,561.00	\$11,927.00	\$11,753.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 135.00	-0-
Neighbors in Need	\$ 20.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 175.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 1,657.49	\$ 4,170.49	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,690.00
UCC General Disaster	\$ 130.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 1,009.00	\$ 585.00
Mitten Tree (Phoebe)	\$ 955.00	\$ 955.00	\$ 840.00	\$ 725.00
Mitten Tree (Pinebrook)	\$ 590.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 925.00
Mountain Valley Assn.	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	N/A	N/A
Northampton Food Pantry	\$ 75.33	\$ 75.33	N/A	N/A
Whitehall Hunger Initiative	\$ 75.33	\$ 75.33	N/A	N/A



Mission Outreach giving for November 2025  
totaled \$4,514.15 and YTD giving totaled \$21,332.15

Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



# BUDGET UPDATE

## St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Nov 2025

Income	Electronic	11/2/2025	11/9/2025	11/16/2025	11/23/2025	11/30/2025	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$7,113.65	\$3,138.00	\$2,179.30	\$2,629.00	\$1,730.56	\$1,943.00	\$18,733.51
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,225.50			\$550.00	\$36.00		\$1,811.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$205.00	\$1,855.00	\$566.65	\$1,070.00	\$186.00		\$3,882.65
Endowment Interest							\$0.00
Flowers			\$25.00	\$78.50	\$171.00	\$81.50	\$356.00
Faith Formation	\$20.00		\$15.00	\$5.00		\$15.00	\$55.00
Special Gifts	\$350.00						\$350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,914.15</b>	<b>\$4,993.00</b>	<b>\$2,785.95</b>	<b>\$4,332.50</b>	<b>\$2,123.56</b>	<b>\$2,039.50</b>	<b>\$25,188.66</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,374.79	\$10,258.50	\$(116.29)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,338.51	\$9,479.75	\$141.24
Building Services	\$2,775.08	\$2,562.50	\$(212.58)
Faith Formation	\$(10.00)	\$104.17	\$114.17
Parish Programs	\$2,288.29	\$2,419.25	\$130.96
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,766.67</b>	<b>\$24,824.17</b>	<b>\$57.50</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$25,188.66	\$281,714.36
Total Expenses	\$24,766.67	\$281,225.04
Net INCOME (LOSS)	\$421.99	\$489.32

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### Mission Giving, Nov 2025

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$971.00		
Neighbors in Need	\$20.00		
Christmas Fund	\$15.00		
UCC General Disaster	\$130.00		
Mountain Valley Assoc	\$25.00		
Mitten Tree - Phoebe	\$955.00		
Mitten Tree - Pinebrook	\$590.00		
Northampton Food Back	\$75.33		
Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative	\$75.33		
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$1,657.49		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,514.15</b>		

### St John's UCC Fullerton Account Balances For Month Ending, Nov2025

Account	Oct-25	Nov-25	Difference
Checking Account	\$31,211.72	\$75,632.16	\$44,420.44
Giant Card Funds	\$547.76	\$2,147.76	\$1,600.00
Weis Card Funds	\$876.00	\$1,451.00	\$575.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$32,635.48	\$79,230.92	\$46,595.44
Restricted/Property Checking	\$35,152.23	\$34,650.76	\$(501.47)
Restricted/Property Investments	\$782,017.00	\$784,380.00	\$2,363.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$817,169.23	\$819,030.76	\$1,861.53
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$568,116.00	\$568,116.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,417,920.71</b>	<b>\$1,466,377.68</b>	<b>\$48,456.97</b>





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## Entered 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*

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, Rev. Dr. Dave Mohr entered the fullness of God's love at the age of 88. He will be greatly missed by our congregation, congregations in the Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC, and the Fellowship Communities residents. We're grateful for all the ways Dave helped us see the love of God and face of Jesus in each other with his life long commitment to compassion and inclusion. His spirit lives on in our hopes for the Church today.

Dave's memorial service was held on Saturday, December 13 at St. John's. All are welcome to share memorial contributions in his name to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.