

**CORRINA  
SCHNECK**

# St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

**Volume 18 • Issue 154 • July 2025**

## Summer Ministry in Full Bloom

*“Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people.” — Colossians 3:23*

Dear Beloved Community of St. John’s UCC, Fullerton,

Summer has arrived, and with it, the unmistakable rhythm of longer days, family vacations, camping, cookouts, and neighborhood walks that stretch into the evening. For many, this season offers a change of pace and a welcome breather. Here in the life of our church, summer doesn’t mean stepping away from ministry, it simply means we get to live it out in fresh and vibrant ways. While we “take a break” from some activities, we offer other new opportunities for us to make connections in faith.

Our calendar is full of meaningful opportunities to grow in faith, connect in fellowship, and serve with joy. From Vacation Bible School to our denomination’s General Synod, from summer music leadership and worship to our visitations team offering care to our homebound, to our missions team still organizing food donations for our area needy, we share a sacred energy and spirit. God’s creativity resonates in and among us in the laughter of children, the wisdom of our elders, the generosity of volunteers, and the quiet, consistent ways we care for one another.

In addition to worship and service, we are also offering intentional new spaces for faith formation and social connection this summer with a small group study and social time ([See article on Summer Suppers for the Soul](#)), outdoor and intergenerational gatherings, and spiritual conversations over scripture (join our Wednesday morning Verso-Chat for the summer). These moments help us grow deeper in relationship with God and with one another, grounding us in community and reminding us who we are: beloved and called.

The Personnel Committee and Consistory are also thrilled to share a joyful new development in our ministry. We’ve been praying for the last two years for God to create within us the capacity to add program staff for the Children and Youth Ministry at St. John’s. We have seen positive financial positioning in recent months, and believe God is creating a unique opportunity now for St. John’s to respond in faith and stretch and grow us. We are headed in the right direction. So, THANK YOU St. John’s for your ongoing faithfulness and support!

**“We Worship, We Love and We Serve  
~ No Matter What!”**



Please join us in welcoming Samantha Kistler, who will be joining our program ministry team as a quarter-time staff member. Persons in seminary who are “members in discernment” (MiDs) are required to have a Field Education Placement during their final year. Samantha brings a wealth of interest and experience to St. John’s as she completes her training. We will be part of her spiritual and professional development, and then intend to expand that experience with a second year of part-time ministry.

Part of Samantha’s training includes specific focus on our ministry with children and youth. She will also share in some visitation to our homebound members and some hospital care. Sunday worship leadership will be part of the overall experience of her placement experience. We will share a much more in-depth introduction of Samantha in our August Connections newsletter, along with more details about her background, hopes and interests in ministry. Until then, please join the congregation now in praying for Samantha, her husband and daughters, and the next steps we will take together as we grow our Faith Formation ministry. Their gifts and passion for walking alongside children and young people, and our seasoned saints will help us build even stronger foundations of faith, imagination, and belonging for the coming program year and beyond.

So, if you’re home this summer, we hope you’ll jump into the life of the church with heart and soul. If you’re traveling, know that we carry your prayers with us and welcome you back with open arms. Much of who we are and how we share in ministry is available to experience online, wherever your travels take you. Whether through worship on Sundays, a community meal, lending a hand at an outreach event, or showing up for a game night or Bible study, there’s a place for you to belong and to bless others.

Summer isn’t a break from being in church. It’s a beautiful chance to BE the Church in new ways. Let’s make the most of it, together. Let’s be those who love, in grace and hope, with a vibrant generosity in all we do.

Yours in grace and hope,

*Steve Davis*

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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## On The Cover...



### CORRINA SCHNECK

Hi, I'm Corrina Schneck. I was born and raised in this church, surrounded by the love and support of the St. John's community. From the moment I was baptized through my confirmation and beyond, I've always felt at home here.

I grew up just down the street with my parents and older sister, and spent many afternoons at church—singing in the choir, ringing bells, attending youth group—anything I could be part of, I was. I graduated from Whitehall High School and LCTI in 2019 with a focus in graphic arts and design, and later earned my cosmetology license from Metro Beauty Academy in 2022.

Today, I'm a homeowner and currently planning my wedding with my wonderful fiancé. St. John's has always been my home, and as long as I'm here, I'll continue to sing in the choir and play in the bell choir.

### In Loving Memory: Madeline Emma Slivka

Madeline Emma (Rego) Slivka, 97, of Whitehall, passed away on June 19, 2025. A devoted mother, grandmother, and friend, she was known for her kindness, strength, and open heart. A longtime member of St. John's UCC, Madeline lived by her motto: "good health and happiness."

She is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A service will be Thursday, June 26 at 11am at Gilbert Funeral Home, Whitehall. Calling hour begins at 10am. Interment will follow at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: [www.chop.edu](http://www.chop.edu)

## **Good News From The Consistory**

With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee leaders, the endorsement of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, and approval of the Consistory, St. John's will step forward in faith, welcoming the beginning of a new day in our ministry. Starting in August 2025, Samantha Kistler, a young woman who is a Member in Discernment, working to complete seminary at Moravian University and further explore her calling to ministry, will complete her Field Education Placement and further discern how God would have her serve in ministry, working with us at St. John's.. The Elders of our Spiritual Council, the Consistory leadership and the Sr. Pastor have all visited with Samantha and believe God is opening a tremendous opportunity for us to grow our ministry and help Samantha discern her calling.

Together, WE - The St. John's Congregation will:

1) provide a stipend to support Samantha's travel and honor her work with us (August 2025 through June 2026). Samantha plans to continue ministry for a second year with us after her seminary education is complete and she is approved for ordination.

In the first year of Field Education, Samantha would be required to spend 8-10 hours per week in various ministries at St. John's, to include Visitation and Congregational Care, creating enriching experiences in Faith Formation for children and youth, and sharing in worship leadership.

2) provide a ministry support loop in addition to pastoral supervision, to help Samantha have the best ministry experience and growth possible in her discernment.

In a second year of ministry, Samantha's time with us would increase. The Stewardship and Finance Committee and Sr. Pastor are exploring more detailed descriptions of what a second year of ministry partnership might look like. Samantha shared her intention to remain in bi-vocational ministry while continuing her current full time employment as an Emotional Support Teacher for the Lehighton High School. This would enable her to continue to have other employment

benefits such as healthcare, which we currently cannot provide.

The Elders and Consistory are excited to share our belief that a two-year commitment to partnered ministry is the best path forward for St. John's, especially as we nurture ministry with families and our homebound community. One year simply isn't enough to reestablish strong leadership and build the kind of meaningful ministry we envision together. We want to invest in a partnership that fosters growth, continuity, and care, for Samantha and for our whole congregation.

With the encouragement of the Consistory, the Stewardship and Finance Committee and our Senior Pastor are exploring the use of some of our self-restricted funds to help make this second year possible. We are hopeful that, with anticipated support from two additional funding sources and the continued generosity of the St. John's family, we will meet this goal. We truly believe God is calling us to steward our resources in ways that grow our program ministry, strengthen our pastoral care, and support the sacred beginning of a faithful ministry career.

### **Our St. John's Connection**

Our next Connection Class sessions for those who would like to make St. John's their faith home will be in August to be received on our Gathering Sunday, September 7! If you've been thinking of making your connection with St. John's more "official," contact the church office or let Pastor Steve know.

"Whoever you are and wherever you may be on life's journey, you are... WELCOME HERE!"



## **Affirming Faith, "I believe..."**

On June 1, St. John's received three young men into our congregation on the profession of their faith through confirmation. The 2024-2025 Confirmation Class was led by Rev. Steve Davis, Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner. We were honored to have Michael Kern, Bonnie Strauss and Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith serve as mentors to Nicholas Santee, Aiden Hannis and Lucas Williams. Our thanks to the Consistory for the cakes and to Colleen Kulhamer for making the celebration on June 8 look fabulous and taste delicious! Congratulations to our confirmands!



Each year, we ask our Confirmation Class to write individual faith statements as they affirm their faith in God, in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit and in the Church. We shared these faith statements in worship and share them here for us all to experience the faith of our young men.



**AIDEN  
JAMES  
HANNIS**

***I believe that God is the only god.***

***I believe that Jesus is the only son of God and the lord and savior. He was sent to earth to teach us how to do things properly.***

***I believe that the Holy Spirit is what you feel within yourself.***

***I believe that a disciple is a follower of God and Jesus.***

***After confirmation, I want to be a continuous member and disciple of the church.***



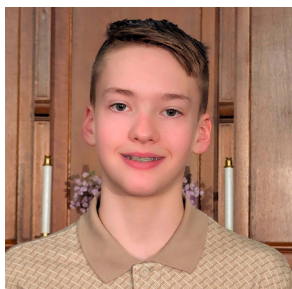
**NICHOLAS  
WILLIAM  
SANTEE**

*I believe that God is the creator of us and the world. God guides us throughout our life.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus forgives us for our sins.*

*The Holy Spirit guides us away from sins. He directs us to help us do good in the world. The spirit is always around us no matter what!*

*The Church is not only a physical building but Church is all the people. People in church, people worshipping online, and all the people in our community are the Church too.*



**LUCAS  
GEORGE  
WILLIAMS**

*I believe God is the creator and the one who guides us through the path of life. I also believe God's Son, Jesus Christ, was both human and divine.*

*I think God is the way of life and his love is deeper than the depth of the sea. I believe Jesus is the savior and Christ.*

*God gets us out of places that we do not want to be in. I think the Holy Spirit can be spread by us and can help many people.*

*When I finish confirmation, I want to be a member of the church and be with the congregation while growing in my faith.*

To Aiden, Nicholas and Lucas, your St. John's UCC, Fullerton faith family joins in celebrating your faith. We look forward to all the ways you will continue to grow and bless this congregation, and how you'll be a blessing in the world. Congratulations! We are so proud of you all!



# FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE & WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

## SUMMERTIME SUNDAY MORNINGS

*for Children, Youth & Adults*

Faith formation happens in many ways. Whether gathered in a class, reading devotionals on your own, sharing in small groups, or reflecting together online, we are made to grow. God created us with a longing to seek, to know more deeply, to understand more fully, and to connect more meaningfully with God, one another, and the world around us. Formation in faith isn't a one-time event; it's a lifelong journey.

At St. John's, our rhythm of learning and growing continues year round, even as summer brings a shift in pace. Continuing this July, and August, our Sunday morning Faith Formation classes for children and adults will pause so that our incredible class leaders, children's volunteers, and facilitators can take a well-deserved time of rest and renewal.

But rest doesn't mean we stop growing! Our journey of faith continues through a variety of summer opportunities. You're invited to take part in these meaningful ways to stay rooted, connected and inspired. We hope you'll find joy and nourishment in these summer offerings. Let's continue to be formed by our faith, even, and especially, in the warmth and wonder of this season.



## SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL

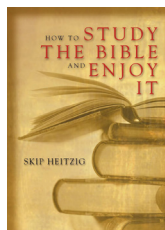
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

July 2 & 9, 23 & 30, August 6 & 13

This tongue twister opportunity to deepen our faith and enjoy a fresh time of learning is perfect for your Wednesday evenings this summer. This special summer series invites you to step into Room 201 (Sanctuary/Office level) for supper (salads and sandwiches), study, and a sacred safe space where spiritual senses are stirred and sharpened. Savor a summer evening of sharing designed to stir your soul and strengthen your spiritual walk.

Send us a signal that you're ready to Sign up on Sundays or send an email to Steve! We will be discussing the book, "How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It" by Rev. Skip Heitzig. When you let us know your intention to participate, we will order the book for you. (\$7 donation if you're able.) We will also sign up to donate salads and slider sandwiches each week for us to enjoy together. We hope to have a crowd and open combine Room 201 with the Choir Room! Join us Wednesday evenings this July and August.

The book *How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It* by Skip Heitzig comprises eight chapters, each designed to guide readers through a comprehensive and engaging approach to Bible study. The chapters are as follows:



- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Deciphering the Bible          | 5. Interpretation: Opening Your Mind |
| 2. Finding the Right Tools        | 6. God's Creative Writing            |
| 3. Getting Started                | 7. Application: Opening Your Heart   |
| 4. Observation: Opening Your Eyes | 8. Practicing What We've Preached    |

These chapters collectively provide a structured framework for participants to delve into the Scriptures, emphasizing the importance of observation, interpretation, and application in the study process. This is not a Bible Study, but rather a fresh way to look at HOW we study God's Word to find greater meaning from the ancient word and our Still Speaking God.

Save the dates and sign up today to take part in this special summer study series!

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT THE ST. JOHN'S PAVILION SAVE THE DATES - July 27 and August 31**

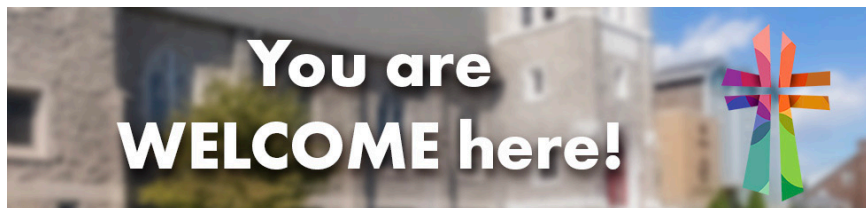
9:30am Morning Worship - Our faith community gathers to Worship, Love and Serve every Sunday morning! On these dates, we will be outside (weather permitting) and enjoy worship outdoors at the Pavilion. We will have a potluck following worship on July 27. Bring your lawn chairs if you'd like something more comfortable than the folding metal chairs.

### **OPEN AND AFFIRMING ALL YEAR! You Are Welcome Here... Fully and Unconditionally**

At St. John's UCC, Fullerton, we are proud to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ. As part of the Penn Northeast Conference and the wider UCC family, we are one of many communities committed to embodying the radical, inclusive love of God in all that we do.

Being Open and Affirming means we extend a wholehearted welcome to people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. It means we actively work to ensure that all people, including those living with physical, mental, or developmental challenges, feel safe, valued, and supported in our community. You don't have to fit a mold to be embraced here. You simply get to be fully YOU.

This is more than a statement. It's a living covenant. We are committed to removing barriers that might keep someone from fully experiencing the love of God through worship, fellowship, service, and connection at St. John's. If you've ever felt excluded or unseen by the church, we want you to know: here, you are seen. Here, you are loved. Here, you belong.



## CREATING SPACE FOR EVERY BODY AND EVERY SOUL

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. Soon you will see a new access ability at our Grape St. elevator entrance with an auto-opening door thanks to the generosity of one of our members giving back in memory of one who opened his life to all people. More about that next month. We are working to make our spaces and worship experience more accessible for everyone, including those with hearing impairment. We always welcome our online worship participants to share with us anytime, anyplace!

Join us each week in the gathering spaces, the classrooms, the sanctuary, online, and social connection time. We welcome you into the experience of God's love through St. John's

## PENTECOST SEASON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We spend almost half of the calendar year in the season of Pentecost, telling the story of the life and ministry of love as disciples of Jesus, growing the beloved community for the last 2,000 years in faith and outreach. The season of Pentecost helps us tell our story, to share the experiences of the early Church and the Church today! We are a people with a life-changing message of unconditional love to share with the world. One of the ways we share this ongoing story comes through our gathering for worship.

This summer, we want to highlight the stories of faith to help us SEE where God is leading and BE SEEN as God's people of love and hope in a world of need. To be truly seen is powerful, especially for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. In a time when political efforts and legislation in some states and the current administration, and Supreme Court decisions against transgender persons receiving gender affirming health care, and policies which intentionally aim to silence or erase queer identities from the fabric of public life, the act of being recognized, SEEN, affirmed, and included becomes even more sacred.

The Pentecost story reminds us that the Spirit of God does not discriminate. It was poured out on all people, Jew and Gentile alike, as a bold declaration of divine inclusion. That same Spirit continues to move today, breaking down barriers and calling us to be a community where everyone is seen, valued, and embraced. Thank you for all the ways you share your affirmation all year long.

## SUNDAY, JULY 6

*Worship with Holy Communion*

**"The Church: Seeing and Being Seen"**

**- The Spirit that Supplies Us**

[Galatians 6:1-10]

*Lectionary Readings:*

2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30, Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9,  
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Join us as we celebrate our Holy Communion and who we are as the living Body of Christ in the world today. We are the Church, seeing the needs and hopes of the world and helping ALL people to be seen as the beloved people of God.

## SUNDAY, JULY 13

*Retired Pastors Leading Worship during General Synod*

**"The Church: Seeing and Being Seen"**

[Luke 10:25-37]

*Lectionary Readings:*

Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82, Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10,  
Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

While Pastor Steve is away for General Synod in the UCC (our national church gathering), we are blessed to have a clergy couple, and new members to the St. John's family lead us in worship. Please join in welcoming Rev. Bob Stevens and Rev. Janet Boyd as they lead in worship and bring the message to inspire and challenge us!

## SUNDAY, JULY 20

*Worship - Highlights from General Synod*

**"The Church: Seeing and Being Seen"**

**Into the Deep! - Luke 5:1-5**

[Colossians 1:15-19]

*Lectionary Readings:*

Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52, Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

The denomination's national/global ministry body gathers in Kansas City, Missouri from July 11-15, and Pastor Steve and Tyler Shankweiler will be representing St. John's UCC, Fullerton, along with others across the PNEC. Steve will share his reflections on the event on July 20 and Tyler on July 27.

## SUNDAY, JULY 27

*Outdoor Worship at the St. John's Pavilion*

**"The Church: Seeing and Being Seen"**

**Into the Deep! (Pt. 2)**

[Colossians 2:6-7]

*Lectionary Readings:*

Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85, Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19), Luke 11:1-13

While heeding to the call to deeper love, deeper commitments to justice and deeper spiritual living, we know we cannot be all God intends for us to be alone. Church, it is time for us to trust God and put out "into the deep." May Jesus' invitation and way of deeper living be ours in every step of our walk of faith. Following worship, we will share a potluck lunch at the Pavilion

## Thank You To Rev. Becca Stephens

The following report was shared by an incredible leader and pastor with a serving heart, our own Rev. Becca Stephens. Over the last several years, Becca has VOLUNTEERED her time and talents serve our children, youth and parents, guiding our Faith Formation activities for children and confirmation activities. She has partnered with parents, volunteers, helpers and a new Senior Pastor to create experiences in faith that would be meaningful and help St. John's when pandemic and finances made it impossible to have a paid staff person.

We invite you to read her final report to the Consistory for our June meeting. At the start of our Program Year in September, we want to honor Becca and recognize her in worship for her generosity and "No Matter What" spirit to serve with the love of Christ.

### FAITH FORMATION

*I have ended my time as the coordinator of the Sunday morning children's Faith Formation Program as of Sunday May 25. At our in-person meeting on Monday May 12 the following people were present: Donnalee Yeatts, Wendy Fox, Constance Arnold all of who will be classroom leaders in the fall. Susan Rarich & Michelle Gutekunst, who will serve as classroom helpers & Jenn Rarich who will help on occasion as she is able. Amy Feidler was also in attendance and will continue to serve as craft consultant for the program. Staci Pagan will also be a classroom helper in the fall but was unable to attend the meeting.*

*We discussed the details of using the Holy Moly digital curriculum, Donnalee took notes and leaders and helpers will be meeting sometime after Vacation Bible School to make specific decisions about leadership for the Sunday morning children's Faith Formation program going forward.*

*I stepped up in the fall of 2021, when we were between pastors, to coordinate the confirmation class, under the guidance of the Confirmation Task Force and with Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner as my classroom assistants. After Pastor Steve was elected in the fall of 2021, I continued with the confirmation class as he was getting settled in. Together we confirmed 14 young people in May of 2022.*

*Sometime during the interim period we formed a Faith Formation Task Force to revitalize our Children's Faith Formation Program which was no longer operational as a result of the pandemic. Pastor Steve joined the Task Force soon*



after he began. In the summer of 2022 I proposed to Pastor Steve that I have a conversation with Rev Cecilia Baxter who at the time was coordinating Children's Faith Formation at New Creation UCC in Easton After consulting with Cecilia I offered to take the lead to provide programing for the young children at St John's who at the time were ranging in age from 3-7. We officially began in earnest in September of 2022.

September of 2024 marked a turning point for the program, as the approach that had worked when the children were younger was less effective as some of them were now as old as 8 & 9 and seemed to be losing interest in what was admittedly geared to younger children. Last summer I was on a mission to find a Bible-based curriculum with a video component that would be engaging for children as young as kindergarten and as old as 5th grade. After extensive research, I settled on The Holy Moly curriculum which has worked quite well during this past year. As the program is online rather than hard copies there were many details that needed to be worked out to make effective use of the program materials, including the logistics of projecting in our mini theatre the video coordinated with the lesson for each Sunday.

Over the course of three years I have worked with leaders and helpers alike and was happy to provide one on one training as a way of developing new leaders.

I have enjoyed my time with the children and adults alike and am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. And now, four years later, it is time for me to step aside to give others the opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev Becca Stephens



## What a Great Event!

Fox Hall was buzzing with excitement on Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1, when St. John's Basket Social and Bake Sale took place. Crowds of people came through for the two-day event, enthusiastically hoping to be a lucky winner and to receive at least one of the 97 baskets and gift cards on display.

Co-chairs Amy Feidler and Carol Raszler greeted the 152 visitors as 531 tickets were sold, and Pastor Steve was on hand for the drawing to pick out the winners.

With the assistance of Ginny Brokenshire and Nancy Keister, people were able to choose from a vast assortment of baked goods. In addition to the many mouth-watering goodies, they were delighted to see those delicious Pennsylvania Dutch favorites like funny cakes, wet-bottom shoofly pies, cut-out cookies, and Moravian sugar cakes. Diana Beck and Jackie Maxon were in the kitchen to offer coffee, tea, sodas, and water to everyone who came by.

We are happy to report that this annual fundraiser realized a gross profit of over \$3100 in sales. On behalf of the "Fun-Raising" Committee, we wish to sincerely thank everyone who came out with their support and purchased tickets; all the bakers; those who donated baskets, gift cards, or monetary donations; members who helped assemble baskets; the bake sale and kitchen workers; and the crew who set up, tore down, and cleaned up for the event. It was an amazing time at St. John's!





### Attention: Basket Social Winners

For anyone who won a basket at the Basket Social: If you don't need that empty basket or container or if there is any item in your basket that you will never use, we would ask you to return them to the church to be used for a future event. Please bring them to the office or to worship and give them to Carol Raszler or Amy Feidler. Thank you.

### Deadline for August Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the August newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - [newsletter@sjuccf.org](mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org) by Sunday, July 13.

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

[Updated style guidelines here](#)

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		<b>1</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00 Summer Supp 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
<b>6</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	<b>9</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00 Summer Supp 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
<b>13</b> <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship 1:00pm Music Camp	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	<b>16</b> <b>No Verso</b> 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00 Summer Supp 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
<b>20</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship	<b>21</b> 6:30pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	<b>22</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice	<b>23</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00 Summer Supp 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
	<b>PRE-SC</b>		
<b>27</b> 9:30am Sunday Worship- Pavilion PotLuck lunch following	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:00 Summer Supp 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery

# 2025

Wednesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2		3	4	5
with Pastor Steve Group Group per Study in 201 k Hall Support-Room 302		9:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm Summer Choir Rehearsal	Office Closed	8:30am Men's Breakfast at HamFam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
9		10	11	12
with Pastor Steve Group Group per Study in 201 k Hall Support-Room 302		6:30pm Summer Choir Rehearsal		9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
6		17	18	19
so Chat Group Group per Study in 201 k Hall Support-Room 302				9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall 9:30am School Supplies Drop Off GrapeStreet Parking Lot
MUSIC CAMP				
3		24	25	26
with Pastor Steve Group Group per Study in 201 k Hall Support-Room 302		6:30pm Property Committee		9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP				
0		31		
with Pastor Steve Group Group per Study in 201 k Hall Support-Room 302				



## **Sunday Socials**

Returning September 7



Join Us for Sunday Social, and help host as we start the program year in September. We love gathering with each other following worship. While our kitchen crew (Colleen Kulhamer and friends) and other hosts take a break this summer, start thinking now about the fun and festiveness you want to create with others starting on our Gathering Sunday.

Here's how to sign up: Stop by the red display board at the back of the sanctuary. Or, call the church office and let Alison know which Sunday works for you.

Need a little guidance? Colleen Kulhammer is always happy to offer a quick tour of the kitchen and help you feel confident and comfortable.

### **With Glad and Generous Hearts**

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Luke writes of how the early church began to meet together for strength and encouragement and share the stories and teachings of Jesus. As they gathered in each other's homes, they shared with all their resources with anyone



who was in need. They created a strong and vibrant community that helped each one get through their tough times and challenges as well as share their blessings.

A few weeks ago, I was reminded of this blessing as one of our members shared their list of prayer names for others in worship. They too were in need of prayer for their own health concerns, yet shared other needs and joys. Along with this request was a picture from their own rehabilitation care room, with their tablets prepared on the table to join us for participating in worship online. One for the worship bulletin, the other to view the worship service and join us. We say, "Whoever you are and wherever you may be..." and they take this message of inclusion to heart.

I'm grateful for all the ways we share our generosity of spirit and our resources, just like the early faith community did. I rejoice that we give of ourselves "with glad and generous hearts." (Acts 2:46)



I asked permission of Jim and Janet Ebert to share this experience of their faith in hopes that we too might be inspired to generosity. Our gifts make it possible to expand our ministry. Our "automatic contributions" help us sustain our program and expand our outreach, whether we are present in the sanctuary, traveling the world, or sharing our faith from a hospital room. YOU make the difference!

Thank you for your sharing of your resources, your time, your talents and your treasure... "with glad and generous hearts."

**The Stewardship and Finance Committee and Rev. Steve Davis**

## Friendship Bible Class Gathering

On Sunday, May 18, after worship, the Friendship Bible Class (St. John's Adult Faith Formation or Adult Sunday School Class) celebrated their time together with a luncheon at the Deitsch Eck Restaurant in Lenhartsville. It was an afternoon of fun and fellowship as they enjoyed a wonderful Pennsylvania Dutch family-style meal and chatted with its owner Steve Stetzler.

As the Sunday School season came to a close, we'd like to thank Kay Chryst, Tom Chryst, Bill Fink, Kirby Hower, Tom Moyer, Paul Raszler, and the late Nancy Bowman for teaching and leading the class in discussions this past year. The class averages about 15 people; however, there's still plenty of room for more people when we resume our sessions in September.



## PEEPS In The News



On behalf of the Lady PEEPS, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Colleen Kulhamer for her leadership and devotion to this Women's Group since its establishment in 2015. During the last ten years, Colleen has put together many interesting and educational programs, involved us in craft and food activities, spearheaded fun and challenging games, and scheduled motivational speakers and

videos. She was instrumental in organizing our relaxing and spirit-led Women's Retreats at Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center in Bethel, Pennsylvania, which included weekends of worship, Bible study, fun and games, and small and large group sessions. They were truly amazing times.

Colleen has now turned over the reigns to Regi Mohr, where the PEEPS remain in very capable hands as the women of St. John's come together to share an evening of fellowship, comradery, spiritual growth, and laughter. PEEPS is on summer hiatus, but meetings will resume again in September. We hope to see everyone back as well as some new faces.



PEEPS stands for:

**Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters!**



## **2025 Together We Are Stronger**

### **Our Summer Support: A Season of Generosity**

As summer arrives with its longer days and moments of renewal, we are once again grateful for the steady light of your generosity that keeps the ministry of St. John's shining strong. Your giving—whether through mission support, community outreach, or church events—continues to bring our shared vision of love, compassion, and justice to life. Thank you!

Each month, our Stewardship and Finance Committee highlights the impact of your generosity. Together, we are shaping a church that not only cares for those within our walls but also reaches outward to serve and uplift the wider community. Your support is making a difference.

This summer, as many of us enjoy well-deserved rest and time with loved ones, we remain focused on growing our ministry for the days ahead. Our goal is to not only sustain what we've built but to expand it, reaching more people with Christ's message of love and hope. This growth depends on all of us.

Will you increase your giving this year to help support the momentum of our ministry throughout the summer and beyond? We invite you to prayerfully consider becoming an automatic contributor. Every gift counts.

If you haven't yet enrolled in Automatic Contributions, now is a wonderful time. This simple and reliable method helps ensure the continued strength of our ministry, even when vacations and summer activities fill our calendars. Michelle Gutekunst and our team are ready to assist you in setting it up.

Whatever you give, know that it becomes part of something bigger, a vibrant, faithful community responding to God's call with open hearts and outstretched hands.

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.

Giving online is easy! Use the QR Code to support individual areas of ministry or special projects as they arise. It's easy, safe and secure. Help support St. John's today!







# VERSO-CHAT

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

**Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime starting in July!**

Looking for a fresh way to engage with the Bible? Verso-Chat is a weekly, welcoming space to explore the upcoming lectionary texts, ask honest questions, and listen for God's still-speaking voice.

We meet Wednesday mornings for thoughtful, Spirit-led conversation — perfect for anyone curious about scripture, whether you're new to Bible study or seeking something beyond traditional formats.

This summer, while other Faith Formation programs pause, Verso-Chat continues! Beginning in July, sessions will be recorded for on-demand viewing. You'll be able to access the link to the recorded studies for viewing on our website. Interested in an evening option? Let Pastor Steve know — we're open to growing!

Join us as we follow the lectionary through Pentecost, reflecting together on how the Spirit calls us to live boldly and faithfully, to SEE others and BE SEEN as the community of love in today's world.

All are welcome — click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to learn more. Come discover something new in God's Word this summer!

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



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

**Saturday, June 28 – Bus Trip to Ocean City, NJ – CANCELED.**

**Tuesday, August 5 – IronPigs vs Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders at Coca Cola Park – 7:05pm.** It’s “Dollar Dog Night” where hotdogs are only \$1. Tickets will be handed out in July to everyone who reserved a seat. 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.

**SaveAround Lehigh Valley Coupon Books 2025** – Discounts to restaurants (dining and fast-food), stores, sporting goods, fun recreation, reliable services, hotels, car rentals, etc. Now only \$10. See Carol.

### Coming In Fall

**Thursday, October 2 & Sunday, October 5 – Pastie Sale Pickup** – Order forms will be available In August. Choose from meat pasties, spinach & veggie melts, & fruit turnovers. Costs will vary. Deadline to order September 7. See Carol.

**Halloween Gift Card Bingo – Friday, October 17** – Doors open at 6pm; games begin at 7pm. Food available to purchase. 50/50 & Tricky Tray. \$20 In advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets available the end of summer. See Tom.

**29th Annual Road Rally – Sunday, October 19** – Meet at 1:30pm at church. Follow the route and arrive at a restaurant for supper. See Tom.

**Wednesday, October 22 – Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends”** – 8am to 11pm. Purchase a \$5 pass (offering 25% in sales) and the church keeps the funds. See Ginny & Carol.

**Look for upcoming Dine & Donate Restaurant opportunities  
as well as a Bus Trip for free time in New York City.**

### 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

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

As this newsletter goes to press, we have 50 people going to the IronPigs baseball game on Tuesday, August 5, at 7:05 p.m. The IronPigs will be playing against the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders at Coco-Cola Park. Park information, game tickets, and food vouchers will be distributed to everyone by mid-July. It's Dollar Dog Night where hotdogs will only be \$1.00. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com)



## "SaveAround Lehigh Valley" Books

Whether you are shopping for restaurants (dining and fast 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.

With the year half over and still plenty of coupons available, we've reduced the price of the coupon book from \$25 to only \$10. Please make checks payable to St. John's. See Carol Raszler any Sunday morning before or after worship to make your purchase.



## Everyone Does Grocery Shopping

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 tapes or include tapes from other stores. It's an easy way to give financially to the church.

Think of St. John's every time you do grocery shopping or need to fill up your car.

## Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **July 5 at 8:30am**. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email [QVRRBold@aol.com](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com)

## Clergy Milestone

We congratulate the following pastor who will celebrate the anniversary of his ordination in June:

**Rev. Todd Fennell** – 45th Anniversary of Ordination on July 28, 1980 – Retired.

## July Birthdays

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

7/1 .....	Madison Musselman	7/17 .....	Margaret Reck
7/2 .....	Susan Kaider	7/18 .....	Lucas Weidner
	Charlotte Kerrigan	7/21 .....	Matthew Loch
7/3 .....	Ryan Brobst	7/22 .....	Owen Dovico
	Dominic DeMilio		Jean McGonigle
7/7 .....	Wendy Fox	7/23 .....	Kenda Catalini
7/9 .....	Bobbi Pope		Stephanie Deutsch
7/10 .....	Jennifer Moser		Susan Gibson
	Corrina Schneck		Robert Mill
7/11 .....	Michael Gutekunst	7/24 .....	Robert Barrall
	Sarah Schaffer		Dorothy Kehnel
7/12 .....	Madison Berg		Grace Mohr
	Glenn Buskirk		Mary Lou Tretter
	Jennifer Kuhns		Diane Walter
7/13 .....	Kathy Haggerty	7/26 .....	Bert Smith
7/14 .....	Diana Beck	7/27 .....	Michael Geissinger
	Dennis Warmkessel		Elwood Thompson
7/15 .....	Kathleen Bright	7/29 .....	Barrie Carr
	Judith Doyle	7/30 .....	Nancy Wagner
	Carol Wuchter		



## July Wedding Anniversaries

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

7/6/1974

Robert & Sharon Czekner

7/11/1959

Ronald & Joan Stocker

7/13/2014

Michael & Michelle Gutekunst

7/16/1977

Charles & Teresa Schwenk

7/20/1985

Keith & Donna Held

7/22/1961

James & Mary Lou Tretter Sr

7/29/1989

Anthony & Roxanne DeMilio



Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!





## **Backpacks, Calculators & School Supplies Drive**

Over half of the students in the Whitehall-Coplay School District rely on full or partial subsidies for lunches. Equipping a child with the needed school supplies can be an extra burden that many parents are not able to afford. What happens then is that the teachers, out of their own pockets, provide the needed school supplies for these children. We have a wonderful opportunity to help.

Listed below are items that are needed:

- New/gently used backpacks
- Refillable water bottles
- Student scissors
- Lead pencils
- #2 Pencils
- Lunch boxes
- Lead
- Colored Pencils
- Loose-leaf paper
- Thick markers
- Pencil boxes/pouches
- Folders
- Thin markers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Box of crayons
- Dry-erase markers
- Erasers
- Tissues
- Paper agenda planners
- Glue Sticks
- Cleaning Wipes
- Calculator – Texas Instruments – TI-30XS (only this calculator is acceptable)
- Earbuds/Headphones (must be compatible with Chromebooks)

Look for the collection bin in the coatroom area by the sanctuary along with a complete shopping list of school supplies. In addition, there will be a drive-by collection at the Grape Street parking lot on Saturday, July 19, from 10am to Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com). Deadline to receive items is Sunday, July 27.

## Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of July, we are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, coffee, and canned baked beans. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by online or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry on the fourth Monday of any month, please contact Gary Black by email [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) or (484) 274-2405.

## Update on Other Mission Outreaches

We will continue to receive contributions until the end of June for "Strengthen the Church," a special 5-for-5 offering of United Church of Christ. Your generosity will plant seeds for new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Half of your giving will stay with our local conference.

## 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, July 6	St. John's Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Tuesday, July 15	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Sunday, August 3	Faith Evangelical Lutheran	3355 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall	(610) 435-0451
Tuesday, August 19	Whitehall Bible Fellowship	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661



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

Mission	May 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 741.00	\$4,908.00	\$5,633.00	\$ 5,494.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 555.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,600.00	\$ 1,740.00
Strengthen the Church	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 60.00

Mission Outreach giving for May 2025 totaled \$1,316.00.

## 2025 Spring Walking Challenge

This challenge was a huge success. We had 53 participants. Total steps taken is 9,429,361 which equals to 4,190.83 miles in four weeks. Congratulations to all St John's Walkers. Benefits were felt by many. Look forward to the 2025 Fall Walking Challenge later this year.

Sharon Antrim  
Healthcare Ministry





# BUDGET UPDATE

## St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances May 2025

Income	Electronic	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$7,132.94	\$2,880.16	\$4,055.00	\$4,724.00	\$4,683.53	\$23,475.63
Rental Income--Gross	\$2,601.00				\$30.00	\$2,631.00
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp			\$3,503.50	\$(150.00)	\$(136.47)	\$3,217.03
Endowment Interest						\$0.00
Flowers		\$99.00	\$33.00	\$90.50		\$222.50
Faith Formation	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$15.00		\$60.00
Special Gifts	\$350.00					\$350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,103.94</b>	<b>\$2,994.16</b>	<b>\$7,601.50</b>	<b>\$4,679.50</b>	<b>\$4,577.06</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
						<b>\$29,956.16</b>

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$10,404.82	\$10,258.50	\$(146.32)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,297.78	\$9,329.75	\$31.97
Building Services	\$3,674.37	\$3,087.50	\$(586.87)
Faith Formation	\$370.16	\$104.17	\$(265.99)
Parish Programs	\$2,425.10	\$2,069.25	\$(355.85)
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,172.23</b>	<b>\$24,849.17</b>	<b>\$(1,323.06)</b>

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$29,956.16	\$134,008.54
Total Expenses	\$26,172.23	\$130,702.82
Net INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,783.93	\$3,305.72

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### Mission Giving, Apr 2025

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$741.00
Strengthen the Church	\$20.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$555.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,412.00</b>

### St John's UCC Fullerton Account Balances For Month Ending, Apr 2025

Account	Apr-25	May-25	Difference
Checking Account	\$49,036.65	\$57,597.57	\$8,560.92
Giant Card Funds	\$2,827.76	\$2,132.76	\$(695.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$363.50	\$1,163.50	\$800.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$52,227.91	\$60,893.83	\$8,665.92
Restricted/Property Checking	\$38,332.28	\$37,836.46	\$(495.82)
Restricted/Property Investments	\$80,093.00	\$80,367.00	\$274.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$118,425.28	\$118,203.46	\$(221.82)
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$498,448.00	\$521,382.00	\$22,934.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$669,101.19</b>	<b>\$700,479.29</b>	<b>\$31,378.10</b>
Cornerstone Pavillion Loan	\$(81,928.91)	\$(81,800.23)	\$128.68
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$(81,928.91)</b>	<b>\$(81,800.23)</b>	<b>\$128.68</b>
<b>NET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$587,172.28</b>	<b>\$618,679.06</b>	<b>\$31,506.78</b>







## **Staff Contacts**

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The  
July 2025  
edition of St. John's  
CONNECTIONS  
is sponsored by  
Corrina Schneck,  
celebrating her  
upcoming wedding on  
November 23rd, 2025  
and birthday on  
July 10th