



**EMMA
REPP KUCZEK**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

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Gathering Together in God's Presence

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another." – Hebrews 10:23-25

Dear Friends,

As the long days of summer begin to fade and a cool breeze signals the approach of autumn, our hearts turn toward a joyful and familiar season, the start of a new program year of activity. This year's theme, "Gathering Together," captures the deep joy and spiritual renewal we find in returning to the rhythms of worship, learning, fellowship, and service. We are God's people, and we worship, we love, we serve ~ no matter what!

For many of us, the summer months bring scattered schedules, vacations, family visits, outdoor adventures, and *moments* of rest. While those times are good and restorative, there is a special blessing in coming together again, both side by side and online, to reconnect with God and with each other. Whether we gather in the sanctuary or through the gift of technology, the Spirit binds us together as one body in Christ. We worship, we love, we serve ~ no matter what!

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that gathering is not simply about being in the same place — it's about encouraging one another in faith and in love. Gathering Together reminds each of us of God's promises as we stir one another toward acts of compassion, justice, and hope. When we come together, we are stronger, more joyful, and more attuned to God's calling for our lives.

This fall, our ministry life will be in full swing:

Faith Formation classes for children, youth, and adults, where we will dive into God's Word and discover how it speaks to our lives today.

Sunday Socials after worship, giving us space to share a cup of coffee, a plate of treats, and the gift of conversation.

Fellowship and service opportunities, both on-site and in the

wider community, where we can work side-by-side to share God's love in tangible ways.

Gathering together, whether around a table, in a classroom, on a mission site, or in a virtual meeting, is an act of discipleship. In a culture that often pulls people apart, our commitment to show up for one another is a powerful witness. Every greeting, every shared prayer, every moment of service proclaims that we belong to God and to each other. We worship, we love, we serve ~ no matter what!

So, as this program year begins, I invite you to make space in your life for gathering, not only when it's convenient, but as a joyful and intentional part of your walk with Christ. Come ready to be blessed by the presence of others, and ready to be a blessing in return. Whether your seat is in the sanctuary or at your kitchen table or living room with a livestream playing, know that you are part of something bigger, God's people, Gathering Together in faith, hope, and love as we worship, we love, we serve ~ no matter what!

Let's gather with expectation, trusting that the One who promised is faithful and that Christ is already among us, drawing us closer to him and to one another.

What unites us in God's love is our covenant and the mutual commitment to BE the Church.

We are St. John's UCC, Fullerton, and...

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

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



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On The Cover...



EMMA REPP KUCZEK

Celebrating Her 103rd Birthday

Emma Marie Scheetz was born, at home, on September 22, 1922. She was raised in a home with no indoor plumbing, on a dirt road, next to a canal, in Uhlerstown, PA. Emma had two younger brothers, "Juney" (Oscar junior) and Marvin.

As a teen she had three things she wanted to accomplish in her life. ONE---she wanted to marry a man from a city. TWO--she wanted to have twins---a boy and a girl and THREE---she was going to live to be 105 years old.

Emma met Robert Earl Repp, from Allentown, when she was a senior in high school (Frenchtown High School). She would marry "Earl" on June 27, 1941, when she was 18 years old. (ONE---she married a man from the city.)

More about Emma on page 6.

O N A (Open and Affirming)

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

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

Boldly, we say... "You are loved here! You are welcome here! You belong here!" I'm grateful for the people of St. John's and your heartfelt welcome to all people.

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on life's journey...

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE AT ST. JOHN'S UCC, FULLERTON!

Earl entered the Navy during World War II, and Emma stayed in Allentown and found work. Earl's cousin worked at Phoenix clothes and found a job for Emma, marking uniforms for epaulet placement.

Her next job was at Mack Trucks, where she spent two years spray painting trucks. During the War millions of women entered the workforce to do the jobs of men who were away from home to fight in the war. These women were called "Rosie the Riveter." They used their talent, energy and enthusiasm to help save America during the Second World War. In April of 2008, Emma was one of the Lehigh Valley's "Rosies" to be recognized by the City of Allentown.



Earl came home from the War in 1943, and men returned to their jobs. It was soon time to start a family. In May 1947 the Repps greeted their first child---a daughter, Phyllis. Two years later, much to their surprise, they had a set of twins---a boy AND a girl! (TWO---she had her twins, a boy and a girl---Bob and Linda!!)

In 1960 after her children were older, Emma got a job at Sears. She LOVED that job and retired 31 years later when Earl's health was failing.

Emma has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. In 1991, Robert Repp passed away, and in 1995 Emma married Ed Kuczek and gained 4 stepchildren. Ed Kuczek passed away in 2014.





Emma also spent time volunteering with the Blind Association. For years she would pick up assigned individuals and take them to the mall to guide them for a "Mall Walk" and get some refreshment afterwards.

Her church, church community, and her faith have always been

important to her. She spent countless hours at Dubbs UCC where she served on the Nominating Committee, Bazaar Committee, and as an Elder on Consistory. Emma helped count and record members' offerings on Monday mornings; was treasurer for the women's group United Church Women of Dubbs; helped with the pie baking, candy making and soup making; and made items for the Crafters Group. Emma was also Dubbs Poet Laureate where she composed countless poems about church members and church activities.



Emma transferred her membership to St. John's in 2015 when Dubbs UCC closed its doors. She was happy and fit right in with her new church and made new friends. Emma organized and oversaw the soup making fundraisers, crocheted T-towels and made scrubbies for St. John's Crafters "Keeping You in Stitches," serves on the Visitation Team, and is a member of PEEPS.

Emma became a resident at Fellowship Community in Independent Living in 2015 and moved to the Villa in 2020 where she now resides.

Music at St. John's

Oh, PATRICK...you have some 'splainin' to do! (My best "I Love Lucy" impression)

One of the many responsibilities of any music director is selecting the hymns we sing at Sunday service. Hymns such as "Borning Cry," "Rock of Ages," "It is Well with My Soul," and of course the old but true, "Amazing Grace," and "How Great Thou Art."

Those are just a few titles of hymns loved by all for several reasons. So why then is it that our favorite hymns are not sung on a regular basis or we go an entire year without hearing them? Why are we singing hymns we do not know on a regular basis?

The answer is simple. It is called the Lectionary. Every year beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new cycle of readings. This year, 2025, we are currently in Cycle C. We will move to Cycle A beginning on November 30th, The First Sunday of Advent.

So what does this mean in regard to your favorite hymns and not hearing them on a regular basis? Well, in planning the music used at service, multiple sources are used. First is the theme for the month discussed in Worship Planning-what is the overall message for the month and is there a particular hymn that resonates with that theme. Another main source I use is a book called Prepare! An Ecumenical Music and Worship Planner Guide. This book gives a breakdown of all the scripture assigned for a Sunday worship service and then offers Primary Hymns and Songs for the Day, with hymn suggestions. All the suggested hymns are in response to the assigned scripture of the day. For instance, it will list a hymn and then give the corresponding scripture. I spend a few hours when planning music, reading the scriptures provided and finding phrases in the scripture that apply to certain hymns and (if the choir is back in session) choral pieces. Aside from the planner, I also refer to The United Methodist Planning Guide, GIA Music Lectionary Planning, and looking at the theme ideas suggested for that Sunday—for example, if one of the theme ideas listed is Justice and Light, I will then go to the index of the hymnal and look up hymns with that theme.

As far as "Why are we singing hymns we don't know," well, get ready, you're NOT! Aside from learning the occasional new

hymn, which I try to introduce seasonally as we grow our worship experience, the majority of the hymns selected are based on familiar hymn tunes we have all sung at one point in our lives, just using a different text. In the back of any hymnal, is an index of hymn tunes, in addition to a metrical index.

For example, if you look in the back of the hymnal, and look up the hymn tune, Slane, which is the tune set to “Be Thou My Vision,” there are four other hymns that use that melody with different texts. Another good example is the hymn tune, Hymn to Joy, which is the tune set to “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee,” again, there are four other hymns in the hymnal that use that melody, but with different text. As far as the metrical index goes, at the bottom of any hymn is the meter of the hymn. Say for example the most common meter people will see is LM, SM, or CMD—those mean Long Meter, Small Meter, or Common Meter. How do I use this? Simple, say the text of a hymn is perfect for that Sunday, but we don’t know the melody assigned to it. I will use this index as a reference to see which melody we know and apply that melody to the text. You will notice sometimes in the bulletin, the text may be small, that’s from me taking the text of the hymn and applying to a melody we know in the music software I have on my laptop—MY SECRET IS OUT!

One of the main points of my leadership as a director of music, has been about learning new music which brings about growth and developing of a music ministry, especially with a congregation. In my personal opinion, having to do the same hymns over and over makes the program stagnant and then the argument arises of, “Why don’t we ever sing anything new.” Or “Oh this hymn again.” So, I guess the big question to ask is do we see the double edge sword that happens when planning music?

I hope this article this month cleared up some issues or answered some people’s questions. Please know as we move through the fall months heading into a new liturgical cycle come Advent, my door is always open for suggestions or questions. As I begin my third year here at St. John’s I hope together we can continue through the art and gift of music to continue to grow and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Patrick

St. John's Music Ministry is proud to present...

Worship and Rejoice

Worship and Rejoice, a hymnal published by Hope Publishing in 2003, is an extensive collection of 749 titles containing all the essential traditional hymns, plus over 100 of the top contemporary worship songs. The broad scope of Worship & Rejoice makes it the richest resource available for blending different styles of music together in one service.



As we take this next step in growing our worship experience, we would like to introduce this hymnal for usage, taking the place of New Century. The target date to begin using this hymnal officially would be on October 5, 2025. We are providing you, our faithful members of the congregation, an opportunity to dedicate each new hymnal purchased. Each hard cover book is valued at **\$20.00**. Your generosity and commitment is vital to serving others through our beautiful services.

If you would like to contribute to our purchase of the new hymnals, please use this link to the order form on our website.

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/forms>

Ministry Fair, Sunday, September 21

With the start of our program year, we are Gathering Together this September and sharing our outreach in ministry teams. On September 21 as part of our Sunday Social, every ministry area is invited to be part of a Ministry Fair, sharing posters, pictures, sign up sheets and other information about your ministry area and welcoming people to participate. Each group is asked to have a display on tables by the stage and then we will invite someone from the group to tell us about your area. Come for fellowship and see where you might connect more deeply with St. John's by serving in a ministry area! We Worship, We Love, We Serve – No Matter What!



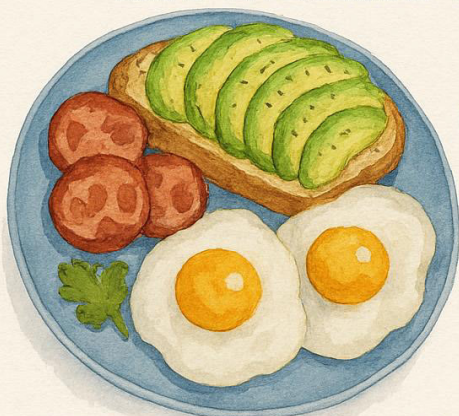
St. John's Music Ministry
cordially invites you to

Breakfast with the Music Ministry



Sunday,
October 12th
2025

beginning at
10:30AM
until 12PM



Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children over the age of 5. Tickets are available after service, in addition to contacting the church office, or the morning of the event.





FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE & WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

GATHERING TOGETHER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS

Learning and Growing in Faith Together

Faith Formation isn't just something we do — it's who we are becoming. It takes many shapes: gathering in a class, reading devotionals in quiet moments, joining small group conversations, or reflecting together online. However it happens, we are created to grow. God planted in us a deep longing — to seek truth, to understand with greater depth, and to connect more meaningfully with God, with one another, and with the world.

At St. John's, the rhythm of spiritual growth continues year-round. Our summer pause now becomes a "Full Speed Ahead" adventure of sharing in faith as we resume our Faith Formation activities for children, youth and adults. Gathering Sunday, September 7, will be our registration day, before and following worship. Children will remain with parents during worship since it is also our 1st Sunday Communion celebration.

Our spiritual growth (Faith Formation) happens because we are intentional about it. This Fall, we invite you into opportunities that

nurture your spirit in new and refreshing ways. Whether through special gatherings, resources for reflection, or shared experiences, there are meaningful ways to stay rooted, connected, and inspired.

- Take part in mid-week lectionary study of scripture with Verso-Chat, Wednesday mornings at 9am on Zoom.
- Participate in our Friendship Class for adult study and sharing at 8:15am on Sundays.
- Kids, be part of our “Holy Moly” Children’s faith formation during our worship time.
- Youth, grow through the journey of faith with our Confirmation Class to explore an Affirming Faith that connects you with God. (6th-8th graders)

Visit our website to register children and youth for Faith Formation at <https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/children-and-youth>

Let’s embrace the warmth and joy of Gathering Together, creating great connections and continue to be formed in faith, wherever the journey takes us.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

One of the hallmarks of Sesame Street is that it brings light into what often is a scary world. In the midst of that, our children become exposed to the ideas of creativity and imagination and the power of learning and education.



Sesame Street is important because it has staying power, as does the scripture we have from the book of 1st John. We can be encouraged over the next four weeks as we read 1st John. Some of the most profound words in scripture come from 1st John to give us God’s light, helping us discover who we are, and how we live and relate to one another. Join the St. John’s faith neighborhood over these next few weeks as we think about SUNNY DAYS and ask “Who are the People in Our Neighborhood?”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

GATHERING SUNDAY with Holy Communion

1 John 1:5-7

SUNNY DAYS: “Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?”

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Deuteronomy
30:15-20 and Psalm 1;

Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

We don't stand in the light of God, we walk in the light of God. We never know who God's going to give us on our journey that we might meet. Who are the people in our neighborhood? It's not just about functions, or the jobs that we do, but the things that help us experience and connect with people from different walks of life. Come step out of the shadows of life and into the sunny days of faith in Christ! Welcome to Gathering Sunday!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Faith Formation Sunday

1 John 2:7-11

SUNNY DAYS: “How to Love a Grouch”

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 and Psalm 14; Exodus 32:7-14 and
Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

We don't know exactly what a grouchy person is going through in their life, but through God's love, we feel and generate more love in our own life. God calls us to love those we've labeled as the “unlovable.” Following the active, loving Jesus, we rise up and take action, in love, as we are called to do, walking together in the love of God.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Receiving New People in Covenant

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9;
Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

SUNNY DAYS: “Choose Your Character”

At the heart of today's scripture is the desire to understand How Things Work in relation to being God's child and knowing we are loved as God's child. The writer of 1 John is a champion of one of the most important tenets of our faith. Both John's gospel and letter point us to 3 crucial words: God is love! That declarative statement defines the very character and heart of God, and all of us as God's forever family.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

1 John 4:7-12, 18-21

SUNNY DAYS: "Open Sesame!"

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146;

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

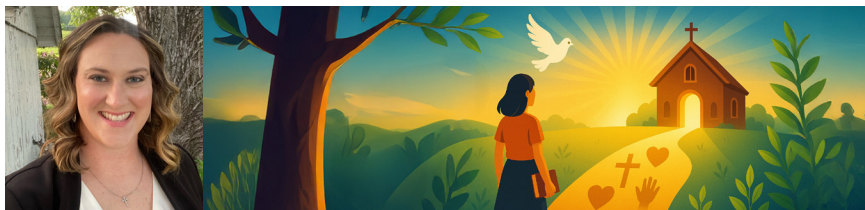
"Open Sesame..." the magic words that open up great treasures! Sesame Street began as a show committed to opening the treasure of learning and creating community for children, and adults too. Simple profound life messages that shape and transform lives. The scripture today reminds us of another great treasure for us to discover... the reality that God is love! This powerful realization in our lives can not only change us, but transform others as well as we share the "magic words" to open our lives to the fullness of God.

Our St. John's Connection

Our Connection Class sessions held 3 times each year, give opportunity for people to make St. John's their faith home. Those from our August class sessions will be received on Sunday, September 21! Come and share your warm St. John's greeting and love to these new persons who join us in covenant connection.

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





Seeds of Faith from Samantha K.

As summer draws to a close, I am filled with excitement for the start of our fall Faith Formation season at St. John's. By the time you read this, I will have met with our wonderful Faith Formation leadership team. These are the people who pour their hearts into making our ministry with children and youth possible. Together, we are planning a fun, engaging, and meaningful program for the young people of our church family.

Faith Formation at St. John's is not only about what happens on Sunday mornings. It is something we live out all week long. Parents and guardians, you are such an important part of this. Some of the best faith conversations happen outside of the church building. They might come up in the car on the way to soccer practice, while waiting for a dance lesson to start, or while sitting around the dinner table.

Ask your kids what they learned on Sunday and take time to really listen to what they say. Wonder out loud with them about where they notice God in their everyday life. Share your own questions and faith experiences, even if you do not have all the answers. These small, everyday conversations can have a big impact on how faith grows in a family.

Faith Formation is not only for children. When the adults in our congregation are learning and growing, our children see that faith is a lifelong journey. If you join an adult Bible study, take part in a service project, participate in a small group, or attend a special class at church, you are showing our young people what it means to follow Jesus every day. Your example is one of the best gifts you can give them.

In the year ahead, let's experience Faith Formation together as a whole church family. It is more than a Sunday program. It is a conversation that keeps going, a shared adventure, and something that can shape all of our lives. I am so excited to see how God will work among us in the months ahead.

ASK THE PASTOR & ELDERS

4th Sundays following Worship

We value genuine communication at St. John's. Taking the time to thoughtfully ask questions and have responses from our Pastor and Elders helps create greater understanding and strengthens our community.

Pastor Steve and the Elders would like to try something new to foster intentional dialogue.

On September 28, October 26 and November 23 following worship during our Sunday Social, we will have some special question cards for anyone to submit a question (and yes, you may do so anonymously) for Pastor Steve and/or our Elders to comment on. We will have someone collect any cards and then start responding to as many as possible.

We hope this will help us all feel more comfortable asking questions, gaining understanding, or even share some insights and suggestions. Dialogue and connection will always be our goal. Let's have some fun and deepen our love for St. John's and each other with these important conversation opportunities.

Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

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

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

With Glad and Generous Hearts

A Legacy of Love Through Generosity

What a blessing it is to belong to a community that gives and grows together! At St. John's, generosity is not just something we talk about — it's something we live. Whether funding a new project, supporting an event, or simply lending a helping hand, so many share themselves and their resources to strengthen our shared ministry. In worship, we are constantly reminded that God works through generous people to make things happen so everyone can experience the joy of blessing.



Almost 30 years ago, Karen and Gene Schmoyer experienced a heartbreaking loss when their 15 year old daughter, Charlotte Marie, was tragically killed June 9, 1993. Out of their grief, they chose to honor Charlotte's life with a memorial fund that blessed Emmanuel UCC in Allentown for many years. Those funds helped expand the church's ministry and outreach to children and gave life to its music ministry.

When Emmanuel UCC closed and Karen joined St. John's alongside her sister, June McCracken, she asked that the memorial fund be transferred here so it could continue its purpose, strengthening ministry and outreach in new ways. Today, the legacy of love to their daughter, Charlotte, continues to bring hope, blessing, creativity, and faith to others.

We are deeply grateful for this enduring gift, which year after year transforms tragedy into a testimony of love. Through Karen and Gene's generosity, God continues to work in ways that ripple far beyond what any of us can see.

As in the early church, we too give "with glad and generous hearts" (Acts 2:46), even in times of great struggle and pain.. Our collective gifts make ministry possible, whether in the sanctuary, across the globe, or from a hospital room. Together, we embody God's generosity by offering our time, talents, and treasure so others may experience God's love.

Thank you for the countless ways you give of yourself. You are making the difference, turning loss into life, sorrow into song, and generosity into a blessing for years to come.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee and Rev. Steve Davis

A Legacy of Love



We give thanks for the life and faith of Adianne (Adie) Keisbar, whose generosity continues to bless St. John's even after her passing. Through a generous bequest from her estate, Adie has made it possible for our congregation to further the ministry she cherished. Her gifts will help many area nonprofits ensure stability and longevity. Adie's gift to St. John's will ensure that future generations experience the welcome, worship, and

witness that were so dear to her. We remember Adie Keisbar with gratitude and praise God for her faithful life.

Adie's extraordinary gift reflects her deep commitment to the mission and ministry of our congregation. In consultation with church leadership these funds will be allocated to many potential projects, such as: our elevator modernization, paying off our pavilion load, updating the sanctuary lighting system, replacing flooring in our education floors, helping with auditory assistance in the sanctuary for the hearing impaired, replacing sanctuary carpeting, and more. We may choose to provide new support for missions outreach, including the new Association we will support when our area is merged to become the Keystone Conference. The Property Committee and other program ministry areas will submit ideas for prioritizing use of these funds, along with allocating a sizable portion to the endowment fund which will increase the funding coming to support our ministries for the next century and beyond. These are just some of the ideas for our prayerful consideration and responsible stewardship.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Adianne Keisbar for this enduring legacy of love, honoring her faith and generosity. We celebrate her life of faith as she has entered God's eternal care.

Sunday Socials - Returning September 7



We definitely like to eat and enjoy each others' company. Whether after worship, for a potluck or a mid-week event, food, fun and sharing together always bring us closer. September 7 welcomes the return of our after-worship fellowship we call "Sunday Socials."

You can host or help a group host a Sunday Social as we start the Program Year in September. Sign up now to share the fun and festiveness with others starting on our Gathering Sunday.

Here's how: 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.

Friendship Bible Class News

You are cordially invited to attend Adult Faith Formation Class (Adult Sunday School) when classes resume on Sunday, September 7th. The class meets every Sunday at 8:30am in Room 201. Different members teach each week and offer a variety of topics including Bible stories, scripture, parables, Bible characters, family traditions, current events, and much more. Stop in for a cup of coffee and refreshments and join in the discussion.

"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 help St. John's raise funds for the church. With the year more than 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.

About Our St. John's Cross

NBC often shares some helpful information about why or how they present news and important life events. They're tag line is "The More You Know!" We realized from some of your questions that some information about our cross logo would be helpful. This logo helps represent St. John's and share a "consistent look," in corporate terms known as "branding," for our congregation. There are some logos we see and immediately connect with a business. For NBC, the peacock and feathers. For Nike, the swoop. For McDonald's, the golden arches, for Wawa, the flying goose, and so on. We see the symbol and associate the recognizable image with the place.

The cross is a sacred symbol of our faith. We share this truth with our Confirmation class and others, reminding us all how this symbol of crucifixion is a sign of Jesus' victory over death and the grave. In our Protestant tradition, we have an empty cross, proclaiming Jesus' resurrection. For followers of Jesus, the cross is not only the symbol of his death, but the promise of God to forgive us and restore us in a relationship of absolute love.

In the months before coming to St. John's, Pastor Steve asked his media producer husband, Bill, to find a way to create a visually-uplifting image to symbolize our emerging from the isolation of the pandemic to a new day of being the church with Steve as Sr. Pastor. Inspiration came from a bookshelf in our home, where a kaleidoscope sparked an idea: create a recognizable logo that would help everyone feel included at St. John's.



Over a year later when Pastor Steve was part of the Keystone Working Group, Bill was invited to create a logo for the group, and potentially, the new Keystone Conference of the UCC. This same kaleidoscope cross at the center of the keystone and images of four people arm in arm, representing the four conferences merging into one, became

a uniting image. Interestingly, one of the other pastors in the group commented, "Oh, it has the St. John's cross." Clearly, they see our

website, newsletter and bulletin and with that cross, they know it's St. John's.

Maybe you have a childhood memory of looking through a kaleidoscope. When objects, shapes, and colors are mixed and reflected in a kaleidoscope, they combine to form patterns of breathtaking beauty—designs so intricate and radiant they would be impossible to imagine on their own. This simple tube, with its mirrors and pieces of colored glass or paper, gathers those reflections into shifting mosaics visible through the eyehole as the tube is turned. With each rotation, a new image appears, offering fresh colors and possibilities of shape—much like the play of light in stained glass.



The kaleidoscope cross we see each Sunday as our "St. John's logo" invites us to see God's promise and victory, and the fullness of God's love. At the center, we find the empty cross, and from it are many overlapping colors to represent every person of faith being included in this sign of God's love for us. It's not a rainbow (also a symbol of God's promise), but a kaleidoscope of colors to include ALL people. The cross has helped identify us in our publications, for our Christian Early Learning Center in their new logo, and in our media presence with Facebook, YouTube and our website. People see that image and know it's something good from St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

While changes over years come with people deeply loved passing to be fully in God's presence, and new persons coming to make St. John's their faith family, we see people embrace faith in Christ and receive the gift of God's love. The understanding of who we are as St. John's UCC, Fullerton, changes a bit, while still holding our shared faith experience. We have always thought



of St. John's as a welcoming place. When we adopted being "Open and Accepting" and then "Open and Affirming," we intentionally looked for ways to visually represent who we are to the community and congregation. The choice of using many colors represents the diversity of all we are as a congregation today. We are not simply one thing or another, one label of identity of another, and we share many gifts for ministry.

Our kaleidoscope cross of many colors, seen in print on our worship bulletins and newsletters in black and white, often doesn't help us discern the distinction of the fullness of God's love. So the visible reminder of this colorful kaleidoscope cross on our worship screen and digital/website version of our bulletin and newsletter, helps our online and on site worshippers, and anyone else who finds St. John's online, have more information about us. They get to visually know that we are a place of faith intentionally including every person in the "you are... welcome here" of God's love. This symbol invitingly says, **"We are part of a great and diverse place, where we worship, we love, and we serve – no matter what!"**

[To see a 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)

<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/about-st-johns>

Dear St. John's Congregation:

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

Sincerely,
Christopher A. Schiffert
Superintendent of Schools
Whitehall-Coplay School District

New Directory and Pictures

Remember when we spent almost 3 months getting pictures of our active church family? Yes, that was in the Spring/Summer of 2024. There are some who have still not picked up those pictures. We will have them on a table in Fox Hall following worship on September 7, our Gathering Sunday.

"But what about the directory?" you ask. Well, at first we had both a volunteer to take the pictures and help us create an "in house" version of a picture directory for us to better know one another by face and name. We also had a member who offered to pay for the professional printing of a new directory for us. As circumstances changed with the funding for publication, and new ability to have our membership database include photos, we began to explore additional options. And yes, we know and apologize for the long delay. But... stuff happens and we see what else we can do in a challenging situation. This led us to see what might be created digitally through our new ChurchTrac database system.

We have created a St. John's app with our new database system to test options and functionality to be sure it is easy to use. [The Church Connect app](#) makes it possible for the congregation to create a secure app account to view our website content, make contributions and can also have a secure picture directory to access mailing and email addresses, home and cell numbers, all at our fingertips for anyone who has a smartphone. YOU get to decide what information people see. They encrypted information will only be viewable to others who are registered with the app. We want to be sure that the secure information is only available for our St. John's community. More details on this coming soon.

"But what about the directory?" you ask again.

For those who don't have a smart phone, or internet or email use in your home, an updated paper copy of the directory information only will be available for you starting September 7. Alison will prepare 50 copies. If we run out, more will be available on September 14 and 21 if needed. That's the good news and latest information.

"But what about the picture directory?" you ask. Should a donor or

group volunteer to fund the project or if the Consistory approves use of previously self-restricted funds, a printed version with pictures will be created. One option we are looking into to keep the information current, is to provide a St. John binder with the printed pictures and member/friends information that can be updated as new people become part of the St. John's community. We can take pictures and add people immediately to the digital directory. We can also create printed pages for the congregation to add to the back of their binders until the annual print update is done around the time of our Annual Congregational Meeting. These are all possibilities we are exploring.

"So when will this happen?" We've been putting some of these component options in place over the last several months. It has taken quite a while to update our database. We still have missing information from various congregation members. When the basic print directory is available this September, please contact the Church Office to share any updates needed. Are adult children no longer living at home? Please share their new address, email and phone. We appreciate your cooperation in getting information accurate and current. It is our aim to complete the digital directory this fall, securing individual permission for the information to be accessible online. The rest can happen as we have resources donated and/or approved for use.

Sorry for the frustration and expectation delayed in producing the picture directory. Please remember, no one volunteered to coordinate with an outside company to work on this project. Yet everyone wanted to have a new updated directory. So, we are doing what we can to make it possible.

Editor's note: We are looking for St. John's members who have an interest in technical / computer who could help as this new system is implemented. [Here is a link to some information about the ChurchTrac system:](https://www.churchtrac.com/articles/the-big-summer-drop-updates-and-new-features) <https://www.churchtrac.com/articles/the-big-summer-drop-updates-and-new-features>



churchtrac

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 Office closed	2 9:30am Staff Meeting	3 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm Mission Co 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
7 Pastie order deadline 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	8	9 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	10 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
14 Newsletter deadline Mum order deadline 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	15 Dine & Donate - ALL DAY P.J. Whelihan's Pub + Restaurant 3395 High Point Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18017	16 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	17 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
21 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour / Ministry Fair	22	23 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm PEEPS	24 9:00am Verso Chat 11:00am Connection 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fox 7:00pm SAA-Recovery
28 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	29 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	30 9:30am Staff Meeting	

ber 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall mmittee Support-Room 302	4 9:30am Visitation Committee 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast-Ham Fam 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
10 with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	11 7:00pm Choir	12	13 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall
17 with Pastor Steve Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	18 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall 12:00pm Friendship Class Picnic
24 with Pastor Steve ns Class Group Group k Hall Support-Room 302	25 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall

Easier Access

The Property Committee has almost completed the new auto-opening door entrance to the Grape Street elevator entrance to access the building. We have one security update to go for the camera call box for use during the week, and to re-engage the key fob ability. We are working to make our facilities and worship experience more accessible for everyone, and the project will be done soon.

Please remember, if you come to the building during the week, the external doors are locked. Simply push the button at the door to communicate with a staff member for access. We have the ability to unlock the magnet for access, just as we had previously. Then, press the handicap access button on the separate pole alongside the entry walk and the door will open for you. When leaving the building, simply press and hold the handicap button just to the left of the door for it to open for you. For Sunday operation, or other activities where the building access doors are unlocked, simply press the handicap button to enter or exit.

We hope these additions make St. John's an easier place to access and be with others and share as We Worship, We Love, We Serve - No Matter What!



PEEPS is Back!

Our PEEPS Women's Group will kick off the new season on Tuesday, September 23, starting at 6:30pm in Fox Hall. The theme will be "Happy New Year," a celebration of the start of our new year together. There will be games and activities to participate in as well as experiencing the joy of being with each other once again. Ideas will be shared as we make plans for this coming year's monthly meetings. Refreshments will be served. PEEPS is now under the capable leadership of Regi Mohr. If you would like to know more about this Women's Group, Regi can be reached at (610) 390-0872 or email at regimohr@live.com

PEEPS stands for:

Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters!



Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries

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

Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith – 28th Anniversary of Ordination on 9/14/97

Rev. George Eckstein – 53rd Anniversary of Ordination on 9/21/72

Rev. David Quinn – 39th Anniversary of Ordination on 9/25/86

Rev. Dennis Schappell – 16th Anniversary of Ordination on 9/26/09

Rev. Matthew Seeds – 17th Anniversary of Ordination on 9/28/08

Rev. Becca Stephens – 33rd Anniversary of Ordination on 9/27/92

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:

Item	Description	Size	Cost
Traditional Beef	Ground beef, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.50
Beef (no onion)	Ground beef, potatoes	12 oz.	\$7.50
Traditional Chicken	Chicken, peas, carrots, potatoes, onions, gravy	12 oz.	\$7.50
Italian Sausage	Pork sausage, green peppers, potatoes, onions	12 oz.	\$7.50
Traditional Ham	Naturally-smoked ham, onions, cheddar cheese, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.50
Chicken Broccoli Cheddar	Chicken, potatoes, broccoli, onions, cauliflower, cheddar cheese	12 oz.	\$8.50
Cheeseburger	Burger, American cheese, onions, potatoes	12 oz.	\$8.50
Philly Cheese Steak	Steak, potatoes, pepper, American cheese, onions	12 oz.	\$8.50
Mexican Burrito	Beef, beans, cheddar cheese, onions, peppers, tomato, taco sauce	12 oz.	\$8.50
Pizza	Pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions, mozzarella cheese, pizza sauce	12 oz.	\$8.50
Veggie Melt Pastie	Peas, carrots, corn, green beans, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cheddar	12 oz.	\$7.50
Spinach Melt Pastie	Spinach, potatoes, onions, cheddar cheese	12 oz.	\$7.50
Fruit Turnover Pastie	Choose from apple, cherry, or blueberry	6 oz.	\$4.50

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, September 7. An order form in the August newsletter, can now be found on the church's website under "Forms," and also found on the table in the lounge. Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. 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, October 2, or Sunday, October 5. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com





Fall Mums

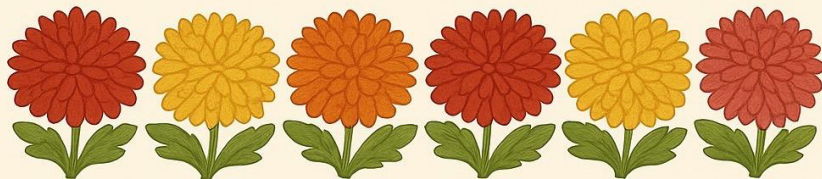
*Deadline to order is
Sunday, September 14th*

9 inch mums: \$8.95

(Mums will be various colors)

*To purchase a mum in honor of or
in memory of a loved one,
please contact the
Church office.*

**Mums will be available for pickup
immediately following service on
Sunday, October 5th**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. John's is blessed to have people who generously share their time and talents, creating lasting spiritual treasures for others in times of challenge, illness and need. For many years, knitters and those who crochet have created beautiful prayer shawls and quilted prayer squares to be shared with members and others connected to our faith community.

Our pastors and others have taken the shawls to those in the hospitals and care centers. They've been shared with people who have been diagnosed with cancer or some other life threatening illness. They've been shared with our senior adults and with a few children and young people facing great bodily challenges as a reminder of our love and the presence of God with them.

Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held and others have graciously shared their time and talents over the years. This Fall, we want to revive this meaningful ministry and put the shawls to use to bring blessings to others. Perhaps you've seen the display in the sanctuary level elevator lobby and coat area. We have an additional tub of shawls prepared and ready to be shared. We want to begin incorporating them into our time of preparation for worship and have them distributed.



If you have a person you would like to have receive a prayer shawl from St. John's, simply contact the church office and share the person's name to receive the gift. We will have the shawl available for anyone in the congregation to come and pray over it before the service begins. They will be named during the Prayers of the People time in worship, and then following the service, the person who requested the prayer shawl may take it to deliver to the one in need. Pastor Steve or any of our other visitation committee leaders can assist you with this as needed.

Help us extend God's love, healing presence and comfort to others. If you crochet, knit or quilt, please let the church office know and we will gladly include you in this meaningful ministry of support and prayer.

Raszler Lakehouse Picnic Photos



Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



Bosco's Shopping Pass

"Friends Helping Friends"

A big shopping day could be yours at Bosco's. It's for Wednesday, October 22, from 8:00am to 11:00pm. Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's, and the church gets to keep the funds. This pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price, in-store and online, and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions. Present the pass at check-out and receive your discount. Also register for a chance to win a \$100 Bosco's gift card by scanning the QR code on the shopping pass with your phone. To get your pass, see Ginny Brokenshire before or after worship or give her a call (610) 439-0443 or email at ginny@posleader.com

A Word About Our Annual Nut & Fruit Sale

We regret to inform you that we will not be having a Nut & Fruit Sale this year. After decades of helping organizations fundraise, the nut company that we order from, Terrilynn, closed its doors and ceased operations at the end of June. Our "Fun-Raising" Committee has looked into other companies from which we could order. However, at this time there are no companies that carry all the products we have ordered in the past; prices were substantially higher; products were packed in smaller quantities; and shipping costs would be added to all purchases. Our committee felt this would not be a feasible fundraiser at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler.



YOU ARE INVITED!

open HOUSE

PENN NORTHEAST
CONFERENCE OFFICE
431 DELAWARE AVE
PALMERTON PA

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH
9:00 AM - 12 NOON

Purpose:

- To celebrate years of serving together with member churches, staff, and volunteers
- To empty the building of books, banners, memorabilia, etc., and distribute back to churches or individuals who want these keepsakes.
- Generally, furnishings will remain in place, although request forms for furnishings not needed for the Association Office or the Keystone facilities will be available.

Program:

- There will be no formal program. Just a gathering to exchange memories, share stories, and help to empty the building to prepare it for sale.

FOOD! LIGHT SNACKS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SERVED!

BRING BOXES AND BAGS TO CARRY AWAY YOUR TREASURES!

Deadline for October Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the October newsletter, please email your single-spaced submission in PDF, DOC, RTF or plain text format to: - newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, September 14.

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

[Style guide recommendations here](#)



God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study Group
Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

Looking for a new way to connect with Scripture? Verso-Chat offers a welcoming, weekly space to explore the upcoming lectionary texts with curiosity, honesty, and an openness to God's still-speaking voice.

Gather with us on Wednesday mornings for thoughtful, Spirit-led conversation, whether you're new to Bible study or looking for something that goes beyond the traditional. Verso-Chat continues to open God's still-speaking word to our lives today! Our group time is recorded and available on request for viewing. Interested in an evening group? Let Pastor Steve know. We're always open to growing!

As we continue our journey through the season after Pentecost, we reflect on how the Spirit calls us to be neighbors in faith who share our light, committed to grow in our love for God and each other as a community. Everyone is welcome. Click the Verso-Chat link below or visit our website to learn more. Come and discover something new in God's Word today!

<https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



VERSO-CHAT

Enabling Ministry All Year Long

As we launch our new Program Year on the first Sunday in September, we give thanks for the steady light of your generosity that continues to power the ministry of St. John's. Your gifts, whether through mission support, community outreach, or special events, turn our shared vision of love, compassion, and justice into tangible action.

Month by month, Pastor Steve and the Stewardship and Finance Committee look for stories to share showing how our giving makes a difference. These reminders tell us of the church God continues to shape through us, not only caring deeply for those within our congregation, but also shines Christ's light far beyond.

We now look ahead with hope. We want not only to sustain the vibrant ministry we've stewarded together, but to grow it, reaching more people with Christ's message of love, welcome, and service. That growth depends on all of us.

One way to make a lasting impact is through automatic recurring giving. It's simple, secure, and ensures your support is steady in every season, even when you can't be here in person. Will you consider becoming an automatic contributor or increasing your current gift this year? Michelle Gutekunst and our team are happy to guide you through the quick setup process.

Every gift matters. Every gift strengthens our shared mission. Together, with open hearts and outstretched hands, we will keep answering God's call. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!



Your Grocery Shopping Benefits St. John's

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. See Karen Stoitsits if you have any questions.

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.

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

Pastie Sale – Deadline to Order Sunday, September 7. Choose from 15 different meat pasties, spinach & veggie melts, & fruit turnovers. Order forms on table in lounge & on church’s website. Prices vary. Payment must accompany order. See Carol.

Pastie Pickup – Thursday, October 2 from 6pm to 8pm & Sunday, October 5, after worship. Come to Fox Hall & kitchen. 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 soon. 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. Signup sheet to be posted in Sept. See Tom.

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

St. John’s Bazaar – Saturday, November 8 – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. Start bringing in items NOW - things you no longer need or want. Look for list of items needed in newsletter, online, or bulletin board at back of sanctuary. See Amy or Carol.

Bus Trip to NYC – Saturday, December 13 – Tour the “Big Apple” on your own. Bus leaves from and returns to St. John’s. Cost \$50. See Amy or Brian F.

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.

“Fun-Raising” Committee needs more members. See any committee member.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

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

A Night at the Ballpark

Fifty-two St. John's baseball fans came together to watch the IronPigs at Coca Cola Park on Tuesday, August 5. Kathy Bright had the honor of throwing out the First Pitch and was given the baseball. Gary Hallman was the lucky winner of the "Pig in a Poke" Raffle and won a baseball cap. While the weather was perfect for the 7,300 fans that gathered there, it was a dismal night for the IronPigs as they lost 7 to 1 to the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders. In spite of the loss, a great time was had by all.



Dine and Donate with St. John's

SAVE THE DATE - Monday, September 15
at P.J. Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant

Ready to make an impact while enjoying great food and friendship? Bring family, tell friends and neighbors, and come to P.J. Whelihan's for a great meal and help St. John's receive 15% of proceeds donated back to us! It's a win-win for everyone involved! We try to have a Dine and Donate location every month for us to enjoy an evening with someone else cooking and St. John's getting the benefits. Come join us!

[3395 High Point Boulevard - Bethlehem, off Schoenersville Road.](#)

Welcome to Our New Custodian!



Geoffrey Jackson is no stranger to our faith community. On February 2, 2025, Geoffrey became a member of the congregation after several months of being here with his family. He has found his way into activity week after week and shares a genuine love for the church, volunteering to be part of the Property Committee and help with open/close activities on Sundays.

Recently, Geoffrey prayed about the custodial/maintenance position that became open again after the initial person resigned. Knowing that this part-time position still needed to be filled, he visited with our Coordinating Custodian, Michelle Gutekunst, about applying. We are thrilled to announce that Geoffrey has been hired as our new custodial/maintenance staff person! When you see him in worship or at other times around the facilities, please share your greeting and gratitude for his partnership in this important role of service.

Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **September 6 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

September Birthdays

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

9/1	Jacqueline Maxon	Nathan Powell	
	Bill Castello	Andrew Deutsch	
9/3	Jill Williams	9/20	Betty Millham
	Patricia Molinaro		Rowan Rarich Lord
9/4	Bonnie Strauss	9/22	Ruthann Hallman
9/6	Kayleigh Fisher		Robert Lopez
	Regina Hickman		Emma Kuczek-Repp
9/7	Cathy Bachman	9/23	Craig Schutts
9/8	Samantha Schutts		Patrick Yoder
9/9	William Fink		Thomas Hunsicker
	Lora Nailor	9/25	Leona Snyder
	Gary Black		Sharon Foellner
9/11	Judith Rossanese	9/27	Margaret Baatz
9/12	Evelyn Broad		Roger Schneck
9/13	Robert Christman Jr	9/28	Shirley Abel
9/14	Roberta Habernern		Cynthia Sommers
	Jane Moyer	9/29 ...	Michael Thomas Gutekunst
9/18	Joyce Dumbach		Tracy Fisher
	Virginia Brokenshire	9/30	Tara Bryant
9/19	Robert Hoanzl		Linda Powell
	Donald Foellner		



September Wedding Anniversaries

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

9/1	9/19
Janet Boyd & Robert Stevens	Nancy & Ronald Eichman
9/3	9/22
Eleanor O'Donnell	Nicole & Craig Headman
9/6	9/23
Jo Ellen & Barry Wexler	Amanda & Erik Volkert
9/10	9/24
Betty & Dale Millham	Cindy & Larry Martin
9/12	Lori & Timothy Silfies
Barbara & Robert Menges	9/26
9/13	Denise & Mark Moll
Carol & Paul Raszler	Jamie & Andrew Kulhamer
9/14	Lora & Jeffrey Nailor
Heather & Jamie Santee	9/27
9/15	Diane & James Walter
Valerie & Gregg Fisher	9/29
9/16	Joyce & Kenneth Dumbach
Phyllis & Frank Cszasz	9/30
Barbara & Blaine Holden	Cathy Kuhns
9/18	
Kristine & Thomas Gersbach	
Danielle & Nathan Powell	





Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that's 56 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.

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

This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, starting at 1:30pm at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott Street in Allentown. Walkers are needed and church members can sponsor our walkers with your donations. There are two options for walkers: 10K Route or the "Golden Mile" Route through the Hamilton Park neighborhood.

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

If you would like to make a contribution (cash or check) to the CROP Walk and sponsor one of our walkers, please see Cindy Reck or Marion DeMilio before or after worship.

The Mission Committee is coordinating this event with our Healthcare Ministry and its Walking Challenge event. The Walking Challenge will take place starting on Sunday, September 21, and ending on Saturday, October 18.



Texas Flood Relief Efforts

As of mid-August, the catastrophic flooding that occurred in Texas and in other parts of the country in July have claimed at least 135 lives, including 27 campers and counselors at a Christian summer camp for girls. Two people are still missing. UCC's Disaster Ministries Team is helping the victims of this disaster as well as giving support for the long-term recovery efforts. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, you can find Disaster Relief Fund envelopes on the table in the lounge or in your August newsletter. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC with "Severe Storms" in the memo section. The deadline to receive donations is Sunday, August 31.

Backpacks & School Supplies for Whitehall-Coplay School District

On Thursday July 31, the Mission Committee delivered seven cartons of school supplies to the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Approximately 1900 items were donated. Some of the items collected were 21 backpacks, 3 calculators, 990 sheets of loose-leaf paper, 15 boxes of crayons, 32 erasers, 64 glue sticks, 37 highlighters, 24 pencil sharpeners, 20 scissors, 22 spiral-bound notebooks, 363 pencils, and 42 pocket folders. Thanks to your generosity, children will receive the supplies they need to start off the new school year in August.



Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 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, 9/ 7	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, 9/16, Sunday, 10/5, Tuesday, 10/21	St. John the Baptist (Social Hall behind school)	3024 S. Ruch St., Coplay	(484) 767-6022

Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of September, we are collecting cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, baked beans, and coffee. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by on-line or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry on the third Monday of month, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com The food pantry is located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall.

Other Outreach Updates

Thank you to everyone who donated funds for Hurricanes Helene and Milton several months ago. A check for \$869.00 was sent to Church World Service to help purchase emergency cleanup bucket supplies and for shipping and processing fees.

How did St. John's Family do?

Mission	July 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$803.00	\$6,809.00	\$6,809.00	\$6,809.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$110.00	\$2,115.00	\$2,205.00	\$2,865.00
Disaster Fund/Severe Storms	\$185.00	\$185.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for July 2025 totaled \$1,098.00.



Step by Step, Mile by Mile It's Time for the St. John's Fall Walking Challenge!

The 2025 St. John's Fall Walking Challenge will be held starting Sunday, September 21 and ending Saturday, October 18. Please plan to participate. Walking is one of the best exercises you can do for a healthier lifestyle. You must sign up by contacting Sharon Antrim, sharonantrim@yahoo.com or call me at (610) 216-6207. All you need is a pedometer (your phone likely has one!), keep track of your steps from morning to evening, then report the total for the week by Saturday evenings. Looking forward to another great challenge.

Sharon Antrim
Healthcare Ministry

From Ron Eichman...



It gives me great pleasure to sponsor the September 2025 edition of St. John's CONNECTIONS in memory of my wife, Nancy Eichman, in honor of what would be her 80th birthday, September 24, 2025 - also in honor of what would be our 61st anniversary September 19, 2025.

Nancy served St. John's as a former president of the Ladies Aid / Kitchen Crew for many years and sang in the Jubilation Choir.

I served St. John's Consistory, as a Deacon and an Elder. I also served on the committee for the renovations to the kitchen. We became members of St. John's, along with our children in 1978.

Nancy – Christine, Timothy, Jeffrey and I miss you every day. We know you are waiting at the end of the rainbow – just beyond the moon. Our love for you is unending.

BUDGET UPDATE

July 2025 Monthly Income Totals


Between 07/01/2025 and 07/31/2025

Category Name	Total
Offerings for Operations	0.00
Faith Formation Offerings	20.00
Membership Giving	16439.56
Loose Plate Giving	213.00
Communion	178.00
HELP	45.00
Fees Offset	23.43
Whitehall Food Pantry	110.00
Pavilion	150.00
Property Needs	664.00
Door Accessibility	15.00
Elevator Modernization	635.00
501 Grape St Rent	1225.50
Memorials	30.00
Kitchen Donations	25.00
VBS Donations	10.00
Pastor Discretionary	20.00
Fob Deposits	10.00
Our Churches Wider Mission	803.00
Bulletin Sponsors	20.00
Newsletter Sponsors	250.00
Devotional Books	55.00
Painting Classes	100.00
Redners Save-a-Tape	51.80
Pavilion Rental Income	400.00
General Synod	320.00
UCC Severe Storms	185.00
Total for All Categories	21,998.29

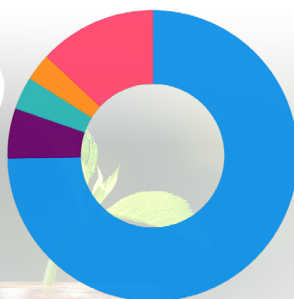
 Membership Giving

 501 Grape St. Rent

 Our Churches Wider Mission

 Property Needs

 Others





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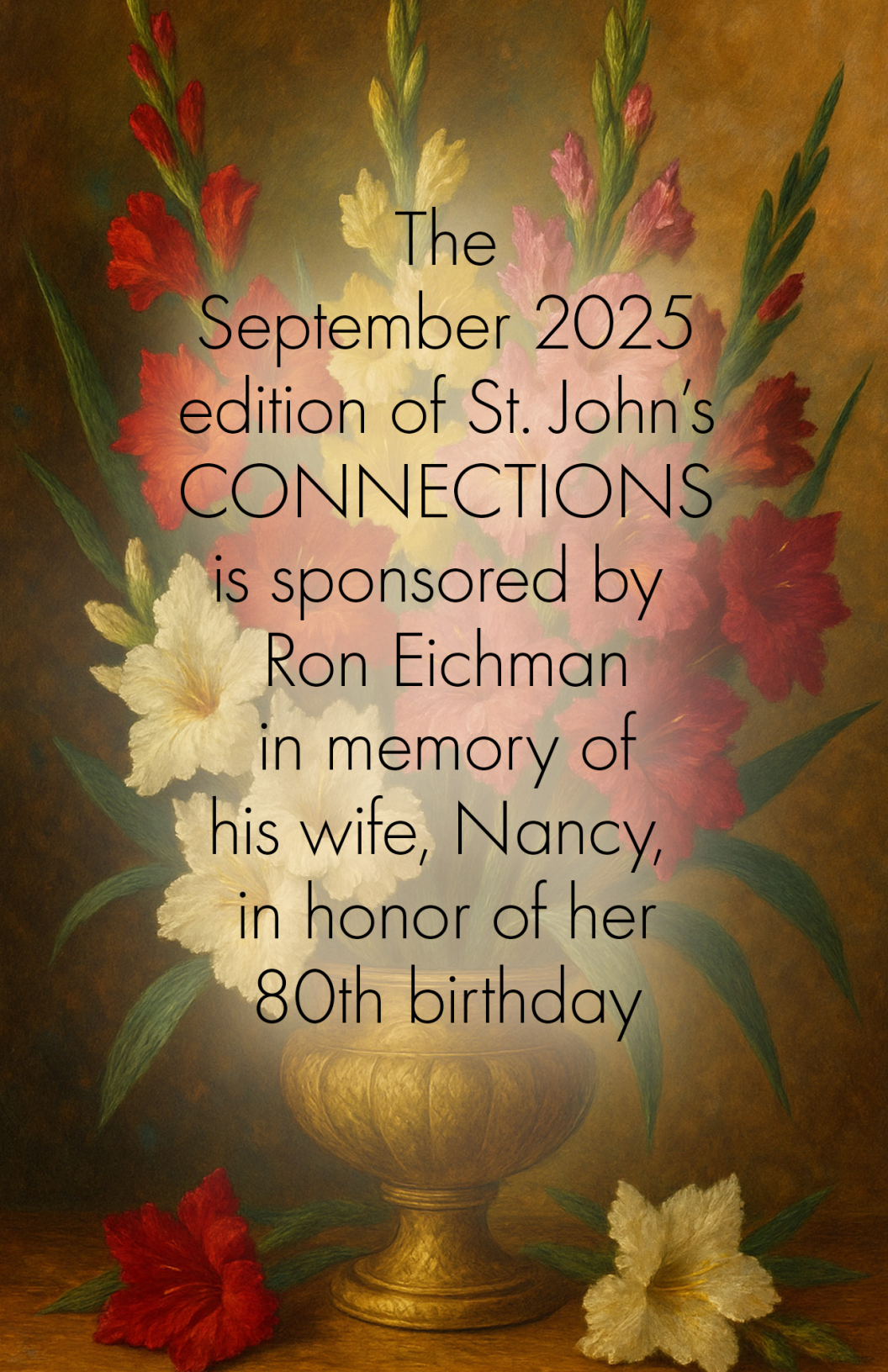
Geoffrey Jackson

Custodian

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www.sjohnsuccfullerton.org

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

A detailed still life painting featuring a bouquet of gladioli. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with colors ranging from vibrant red to soft pink and pale yellow. They are arranged in a classic brass vase with a fluted body and a pedestal base. The background is a warm, textured brown, and the foreground shows a wooden surface with a few loose flowers and leaves. The overall style is reminiscent of 19th-century botanical illustrations or still life art.

The
September 2025
edition of St. John's
CONNECTIONS
is sponsored by
Ron Eichman
in memory of
his wife, Nancy,
in honor of her
80th birthday