



**BRIAN
STRAUSS**



St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

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

Volume 19 • Issue 170 • November 2026

Table of Contents

Advent Begins	14
Applebee's Burgers For A Cause	38
Budget Update	46
Christmas Poinsettia Order Form	29
Congratulations! A Time to Celebrate	9
Convalescent & Homebound Residents	31
Daylight Saving Time Ends	45
Deadline for December Newsletter	19
Entered the Church Eternal	30
Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations	29
Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!	36
Have You Seen Our New Prayer Shawl Displays?	18
IronPigs Fundraising Opportunity for St. John's	35
"Jonah"	38
Lady PEEPS	36
Medical Debt Relief – Final Outcome	43
Men's Breakfast Group	36
November Birthdays	40
November Wedding Anniversaries	41
November Worship Theme	10
"Operation Santa" – Mitten Tree	42
Ordination Celebration for Rev. Samantha Kistler	15
Other Outreaches	44
Our Story of Generosity	24
Our Voice Matters: A Sacred Privilege and a Shared Responsibility	4
Pastie Sale Pickup	38
RaiseRight Gift Card Sales	38
Sharing Our Faith and Generosity	8
Staff Contacts	47
The Keystone Connection	16
Verso-Chat Lectionary Study	28
Welcoming Friends And Growing Our Community	20
When We Pray, We Care for One Another	22
Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative	43
Whitehall Food Pantry	43
With Gratitude And Thanksgiving	6
Wooden Crosses	23
Worship Schedule	13
Your Grocery Shopping Benefits St. John's	37

On The Cover...



BRIAN STRAUSS

My name is Brian Strauss, and my wife, Bonnie, our two sons, Conner and Carson, and I are members of St. John's. My mom, Martha Strauss, is also a member of this congregation. Bonnie grew up at St. John's and brought me along with her. I grew up on the south side of Allentown, where my mom and I were part of the Church of the Nazarene. I was involved in the youth group and loved growing up in a church environment. That experience helped shape my faith and instilled in me a desire to be involved in and serve a church community.

Bonnie and I were married right here at St. John's on June 29, 2002, and both of our sons were confirmands here as

well. St. John's has been an important part of our family's journey, and I am grateful for the memories and connections we have made here over the years.

Bonnie is a second-grade teacher at Steckel Elementary School and has been teaching for 28 years. Our youngest son, Carson, is a junior at Whitehall High School, where he plays golf, basketball, and baseball. Our oldest son, Conner, is a sophomore at West Chester University, majoring in Business Analytics with a focus on sports analytics and a minor in Communication. He is involved with the campus radio station, hosts a weekly sports talk show, and serves as the play-by-play announcer for the university's football team.

I work at MGN Logistics as the Auditing Manager in the accounting department and have been with the company for 13 years. In my free time, I enjoy cheering on the Eagles, Phillies, and Sixers—even when they aren't doing so well! I also enjoy collecting baseball, basketball, and football cards and, most importantly, spending time with my family.

Since Bonnie and I were married at St. John's, I have had the privilege of serving on Consistory, serving on the Finance Committee, and currently being involved with the "Fun-raising" Committee. I believe that being involved in church when I was younger helped instill in me the desire to give back and serve this congregation.

I am truly thankful for everything God has provided for me. He has blessed me with a loving church family and a wonderful family of my own. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't stop and appreciate all that I have been given. My faith has helped guide me through life's challenges, and I trust that God will continue to lead me in the years ahead.

With God by my side, nothing is impossible.

Our Voice Matters: A Sacred Privilege and a Shared Responsibility

Dear Friends,

As we approach the midterm Election Day on November 3, I am reminded of something truly remarkable. We live in a nation where our voices can help shape the future of our communities, our country and influence around the world. The right to vote is one of the great privileges of our democracy. Around the world, millions upon millions of people long for the opportunity to choose their leaders freely and to know that their voices will be heard.



A story from Peru brings that privilege into focus. In April 2026, voters in Lima returned to polling places after delays caused by missing election materials. One voter, Angélica Ríos, described standing in line one day and having to return the next, frustrated but determined to have the situation addressed. Her experience reminds us that the opportunity to cast a ballot should never be taken lightly. For some, exercising that right requires considerable time, patience, and persistence.

Here at home, voting can sometimes feel routine, inconvenient, or even frustrating. Yet each election offers us an opportunity to participate in something larger than ourselves. Our votes help shape the communities our children will inherit, the priorities our leaders pursue, and the kind of future we hope to build together.

As people of faith, we are called to care about the common good, seek justice, love our neighbors, and work for the flourishing of all people. Voting is one way we live out that calling. It is not about agreeing on every candidate or issue. People of good faith will sometimes reach different conclusions, and our congregation includes a diversity of perspectives. What unites us is the conviction that every person has dignity and that our participation in community life matters. Voting offers us the chance to have leaders who find

common ground for the good of all people. Voting helps our values and compassion reach far beyond our borders as we share love for God and neighbors.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds God's people to “seek the welfare of the city” where they live (Jeremiah 29:7). That ancient invitation continues to speak to us today. We seek the welfare of our communities not only through the ways we worship, love and serve, but also through thoughtful, informed participation in the civic life we share.

So, I encourage each of us to make a plan to vote. Learn about the candidates and issues, ask questions, listen respectfully to others, and most importantly, cast your ballot. If for any reason you are denied a ballot, request a provisional ballot. This is your right to make sure your vote is cast and counted. Whether you vote early, by mail, or on Election Day, please remember that your voice matters.

At St. John's, we say, “We Worship, We Love, We Serve — No Matter What!” Participating in our democracy can be one expression of that commitment: caring about our neighbors, contributing to the common good, and helping create a more just and compassionate world.

May we never take this privilege for granted. May we exercise it with gratitude, wisdom, and respect for one another. And may we continue to work together for a future in which every person's dignity is honored and every voice has the opportunity to be heard.

Yours in grace and hope,

Steve Davis

Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



With Gratitude And Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday or a meal shared with family and friends. It is an attitude of the heart—a willingness to recognize God's goodness, celebrate the gifts we have been given, and express our gratitude through the ways we live, serve, and share those gifts with others.

For our Music Ministry, this season offers a beautiful opportunity to reflect on where we began, where we stand today, and where we hope God will lead us in the years to come.

Every ministry has a beginning, a moment when a seed is planted and given room to grow. Our Music Ministry began with a simple yet powerful purpose: to use the gifts of music to glorify God, strengthen our faith, and bring people together in worship. Through voices raised in song, hands ringing bells, instruments filling the sanctuary, and hearts united in praise, music has become an important part of how we share the story of God's love.

Along the way, there have been countless rehearsals, worship services, special celebrations, and moments when a particular anthem or hymn has spoken to us in ways ordinary words cannot. There have also been challenges, changes, and opportunities to learn and grow. Through it all, God has continued to work through the people who have generously offered their time, talents, dedication, and faith.

For every person who has ever sung in the choir, played an instrument, rung a handbell, prepared music, encouraged a fellow musician, or simply offered a prayer for this ministry, we give thanks. Each person has helped shape the story we share today. Our ministry is not built upon music alone; it is built upon people who believe that their gifts can make a difference in the life of the church.

As we look at our Music Ministry today, we have much for which to be thankful. We give thanks for the familiar hymns that connect us to generations of faithful worshipers, for the anthems that challenge us to think more deeply about our faith, and for the music that brings comfort in times of sorrow and joy in times of celebration. Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of a music ministry is the way it creates community. Rehearsals become more than opportunities to learn notes and rhythms; they become places of friendship, laughter, encouragement, and fellowship. Worship becomes more than a service we attend; it becomes an experience we create together as we offer our voices and talents to God.

The words of Psalm 100 remind us to “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.” What a beautiful reminder that gratitude belongs at the center of our worship. Every hymn, every anthem, every ringing bell, and every note offered in faith can become an expression of thanksgiving. When we make music together, we are doing more than filling a sanctuary with sound. We are offering God our gratitude for the gifts we have received and sharing that gratitude with everyone who gathers to worship.

My hope for the future is that our Music Ministry will continue to grow—not only in musical ability, but also in faith, fellowship, participation, and purpose. I hope we will welcome new voices, new musicians, new handbell ringers, and new ideas. I hope that those who have wondered whether they have a place in our ministry will discover that there is room for them, regardless of experience or ability. You do not need to be a professional musician to make a meaningful contribution. A willing heart and a desire to serve are wonderful places to begin.

Most of all, I hope we will continue to understand that music ministry is not simply about what happens in a rehearsal room or on a Sunday morning. It is about ministry. It is about using our gifts to help others experience God's presence, discover hope, find peace, and feel welcomed into the life of the church.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for your dedication, your encouragement, your prayers, your talents, and your willingness to make music a meaningful part of our shared life of faith. Whether you are a longtime member of the Music Ministry, a newer participant, or someone who faithfully listens and supports us from the congregation, you are part of this story. May we continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, not only with our voices and instruments, but with lives filled with gratitude, hearts ready to serve, and spirits eager to share God's love.

With grateful hearts, let us give thanks for what has been, celebrate what is, and trust God for all that is yet to come.

Happy Thanksgiving, and may our music always be an offering of praise, a gift of love, and a reflection of the abundant grace we have received.

Patrick

Sharing Our Faith and Generosity

An Invitation from St. John's Generosity Team

Last week, every person connected to St. John's, whether active members or guests, homebound or those living away, received information and an invitation to share their own Estimate of Giving to help guide us as we prepare to adopt a budget for 2027.

Imagine a guest leaning over during worship and saying,

"I've dreamed of a church like this. I can't wait to come back!" Or someone joining our Sunday Social and saying, "I've actually checked St. John's out online. The hospitality shared here makes me want to make this my faith home."

These aren't just dreams. They are words shared by people who have become part of our community this year! So far in 2026, St. John's has welcomed 16 new members!

That's the heart of why we're here. We're not just supporting a building; we're creating a community of connection, belonging, and hope. At St. John's, we live our calling: We Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!

We welcome those who have been hurt or excluded by faith. We support one another through life's challenges. We care for our neighbors, our children, and creation. We speak out against injustice and serve those most vulnerable among us. This is the sacred work God calls us to do — and our generosity makes it possible!

There Our Hearts Will Be!

Looking toward 2027, if you have not already done so, we invite you to prayerfully renew your commitment to St. John's mission and ministry. Thank you for the generosity and participation you have shared throughout 2026. Now, please consider completing the enclosed Estimate of Giving commitment card to help guide our ministry in the coming year.

This is not an obligation, but an opportunity to reflect on how your gifts can help bring God's hopes for our church, our community, and our world to life. Imagine the difference we can make together

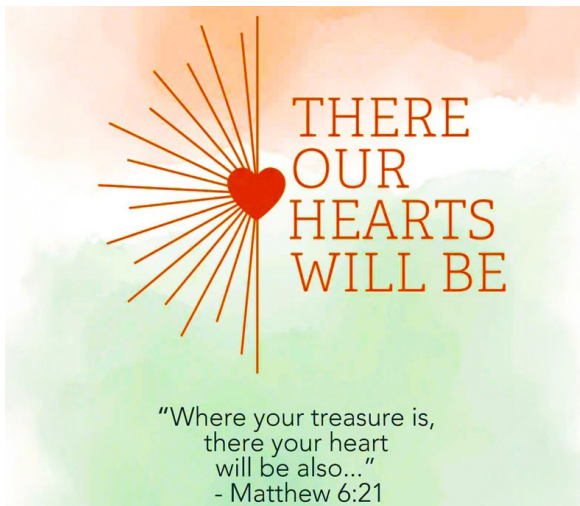
when we align our hearts and resources with God's vision!

Thank you for being part of this community and helping St. John's continue to change lives.

Yours in grace and hope,

St. John's Generosity Team:

Rev. Bob Stevens, Michelle Gutekunst, Tom Moyer, Bill Fink,
Sue Weldner, Paul Raszler, Jackie Maxon, and Rev. Steve Davis.



Congratulations! A Time to Celebrate



November marks the fifth anniversary of Pastor Steve's being called as St. John's senior pastor. After receiving an affirmative vote by the congregation on Sunday, October 24, 2021, Pastor Steve and Bill were officially welcomed at their first worship service on Sunday, November 21, 2021. Happy Fifth Anniversary!

November Worship Theme

Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope

As we approach the close of the liturgical year, our November worship services turn to some of the most challenging and compelling teachings of Jesus in Matthew 25. These familiar stories invite us to wrestle with questions that feel especially urgent today: Who are we? What does it mean to follow Jesus? How do we stand against injustice, challenge the misuse of faith, and live as people shaped by the values of God's Kin-dom?



The last time this Scripture cycle came around in 2020, the global pandemic provided the backdrop, bringing a sense of urgency and immediacy to these stories. As we return to Matthew 25, we recognize a different kind of crisis — one that challenges our identity, our values, and our understanding of what it means to be Christian in the world today.

Matthew 25 is often understood as a passage about eternity and the world to come. But what if Jesus is also speaking directly to the world we inhabit right now? What do these teachings ask of us as people of faith and as citizens of this nation? How are we called to respond to injustice, hold those in power accountable, and embody the compassion, courage, and hope at the heart of the Gospel?

Throughout November, our worship and preaching will explore these questions as we listen anew to Jesus' words and consider what faithful living looks like in this moment. As we bring the liturgical year to a close, we are reminded that Christian hope is not simply about waiting for a better world to come. It is about how we live today — how we love our neighbors, practice justice, care for those who are vulnerable, and participate in God's transforming work.

On November 15, the day of our Fall Congregational Meeting, the Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, the Pastor Emerita for St. John's, will be our preacher for the worship service! Becky always brings such joy and life to her work, and we are grateful for the close pastoral and personal relationship we continue to be blessed by with our partnership in ministry and great friendship.

Together, we will explore what it means to live in this moment with integrity and hope, faithfully embodying the world God calls us to become while trusting in the promise of the world yet to come.



NOVEMBER 1 - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

"Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope"

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

WITH REV. STEVE DAVIS PREACHING

Lectionary Connection:

Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22,

1 John 3:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12

"The Saints Still Speak with Integrity and Hope"

Focus: Consider the stories that shape your community.

**NOVEMBER 1 - ORDINATION SERVICE
FOR REV. SAMANTHA KISTLER
ST. PETER'S UCC WEST PENN, TAMAQUA, 3:00pm**

The people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton, join the celebration as Rev. Samantha Kistler is officially authorized in the United Church of Christ as an ordained minister.

St. John's Chancel Choir has a special anthem to share for the service and Rev. Steve Davis will bring the ordination message.

Have you shared your RSVP to attend the worship service and meal to follow? Please do so today by contacting the Samantha or the Church Office.

**NOVEMBER 8 - HONORING OUR VETERANS
"Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope"
HONORING OUR VETERANS
WITH REV. STEVE DAVIS PREACHING**

Lectionary Connection:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Psalm 78:1-7; Amos 5:18-24 and Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13

"Our stories of faith shape our identity as God's people."

Focus: Where do some of those stories need a little extra light and attention? What are the stories we've forgotten or neglected? What are the stories that we need to replace about ourselves and our community so we can stay awake to what God is doing among us and who we are as followers of Jesus?



**NOVEMBER 15
WORSHIP WITH
REV. DR. BECKY BECKWITH
PREACHING**

Baptism of Dak Heffelfinger, son
of Brooke Heffelfinger, proud
Grandparents, Sandy and Todd
Heffelfinger

POTLUCK AND FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

"Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope"

Lectionary Connection: Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123;
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30

"We are the people of God, today and always!"

Focus: In a world that puts us in competition with one another and values us for our productivity, may church be a place where we enter into the joy of belonging to God and to one another for no other reason than that we are all children of God.

NOVEMBER 22 - THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY (CHRIST THE KING)

"Living in This Moment with Integrity and Hope"
WORSHIP WITH REV. STEVE DAVIS PREACHING

Lectionary Connection:
2 Corinthians 4:5-12 and Psalm 90

Theme: This Reign of Christ Sunday, we meet the sheep and goats — and the question of how our good works of God's grace flow through us. These actions are the fruit of grace, not its price, as we celebrate Christ's reign already among us, even as we wait for its fullness.

NOVEMBER 25 - THANKSGIVING EVE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

6:00pm at St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Join the congregations of St. John's UCC, Allentown, Grace UCC, Allentown, Greenawalds UCC and St. John's UCC, Fullerton for a celebration of gratitude on Thanksgiving Eve. We have much to share in God's abundance toward us and together, we will worship!

Lectionary Connection:
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and Psalm 65;
2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Luke 17:11-19

Advent Begins

The Advent Season invites us to prepare the Messiah's coming. These weeks are filled with anticipation and reminders of God's presence with us to welcome and not dread the "long-expected Jesus." Advent calls us to experience the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy

and Love as we wait not only for the birth of Jesus celebrated at Christmas, but also his coming to us again in the fullness of God's love.



Through the lens of great holiday films and stories, we will explore themes and be drawn closer to the heart of God as we approach Bethlehem's manger and the Christ Child, God with us.

NOVEMBER 29 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (HOPE)

WORSHIP WITH

REV. STEVE DAVIS PREACHING

Advent Through the Movies:

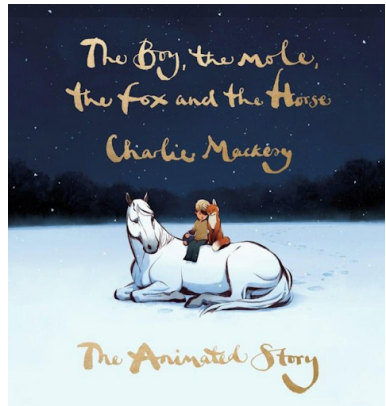
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

Lectionary Connection:

Isaiah 64:1-9 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24-37

Theme: Belonging and Hope

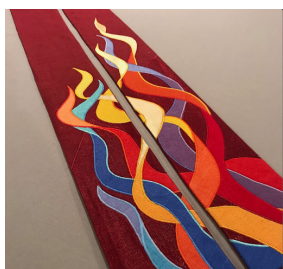
Focus: The story follows an unlikely quartet — a curious boy, a cake-loving mole, a quiet and wary fox, and a wise horse — as they travel through an uncertain landscape, discussing kindness, vulnerability, fear, friendship, and love, as they share thoughts about belonging and hope.



Ordination Celebration for Rev. Samantha Kistler

November 1, 3:00pm St. Peter's UCC, West Penn, Tamaqua

"Congratulations to Pastor Sam!"



There is wonderful news to celebrate in the life of St. John's! Following her successful, unanimous approval for ordination and authorization as a minister in the United Church of Christ, we now joyfully anticipate Sam's ordination and calling her Pastor Sam and the Rev. Samantha Kistler!

What a meaningful milestone in Sam's journey of faith and ministry, and a gift to celebrate together as a community of faith. Sam has chosen to be ordained in her home congregation, St. Peter's UCC, West Penn, in Tamaqua, Sunday, November 1, at 3:00pm. The St. John's family is warmly invited to join in this sacred celebration and meal to follow.

We will share with Sam our prayers, love, and affirmation. It is an opportunity to celebrate not only her call to ministry, but also the communities that have nurtured her faith and helped her recognize the gifts God has placed within her. We give thanks for all who have encouraged and supported her along the way, and we look forward with excitement and hope to what God will continue to do through our shared ministry.

Please join in celebrating Sam and holding her in prayer as she takes this significant step. We are blessed to walk alongside her and look forward to welcoming her in this next chapter as Pastor Sam, the Rev. Samantha Kistler!



The Keystone Connection

Building Connections Close to Home

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE!

Mountain Valley Association Fall Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Lower Saucon United Church of Christ

Plan to participate in the Inaugural meeting of the Mountain Valley Association of the Keystone Conference UCC! On November 7, churches from across the Mountain Valley Association will gather for a time of worship, fellowship, learning, conversation, and shared ministry.

We will be represented by Rev. Steve Davis, Rev. Todd Fennell, Jackie Maxon and Bill Castello as our delegates, but all are welcome to attend and participate as guests. St. John's proudly participates in the life and ministry of our Mountain Valley Association and in the Keystone Conference UCC.

*Supporting the Ministry of the Mountain Valley Association
Strengthening Our Connection Through Generosity*

As we strengthen our relationships with neighboring UCC congregations through the Mountain Valley Association, we are also invited to invest in the ministry we share. Strong connections require more than participation; they require our intentional financial support.

Our congregation's contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support the broader ministry of the United Church of Christ through the Keystone Conference and beyond. The Mountain Valley Association, however, does not receive operating funds through OCWM. Its ministry depends on the generosity of member congregations and individuals who recognize the value of working together in faith and mission. St. John's connection is vital in both areas.

St. John's has an opportunity to help sustain this important ministry through separate contributions designated "Mountain Valley

Association” or “MVA.” When making your monthly support through St. John’s, please be sure to designate your gift accordingly so it can be directed to the Association.

Your financial support helps strengthen congregations, encourage clergy and those preparing for ministry, develop new leaders, create opportunities for learning and fellowship, and build meaningful relationships among our neighboring churches. These connections nurture our individual congregations while strengthening the wider community of faith we share.

When we invest in the Association, we invest in one another. We help ensure that our neighboring congregations and their leaders have opportunities to learn, grow, collaborate, and discover new ways to participate in God’s transforming work. This is not simply about funding an organization; it is about sustaining the relationships and shared ministry that make us stronger together.

Thank you for the many ways you support St. John’s and the wider ministry of the United Church of Christ. Let us extend that generosity to the Mountain Valley Association, recognizing that our faith reaches beyond our own congregation and that our shared ministry flourishes when we support one another.

Together, let’s continue to grow in faith, strengthen our connections, and serve God’s transforming work—right here in our own community and beyond.



MOUNTAIN VALLEY
ASSOCIATION

Have You Seen Our New Prayer Shawl Displays?

WRAPPED IN PRAYER, SHARED IN LOVE

As you enter the sanctuary, take a moment to notice the beautiful new display of Prayer Shawls hanging along the railings. Each one represents a caring heart, a prayer offered, and a tangible expression of God's love. These shawls and prayer squares are more than handmade gifts; they are reminders that God is near, we care, and no one has to journey alone.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry lovingly creates, prays over, and blesses each shawl and prayer square before sharing it with someone experiencing illness, grief, uncertainty, or another season when comfort and hope are especially needed. Through the warmth of these gifts, we offer a tangible reminder of God's care and the loving prayers of our St. John's faith family.

This ministry reaches far beyond our sanctuary. We share these gifts with area students, school staff and administrators, and individuals we visit in hospitals and other settings. Each shawl or prayer square carries a simple but powerful message: You are not forgotten. You are cared for. You are held in prayer.

Who in your life might welcome such a reminder? A friend facing a difficult diagnosis, a family member grieving a loss, a neighbor going through a challenging season, or someone who simply needs to know they are not alone may find comfort in receiving one. We invite you to share the warmth and prayers of our congregation with the people you love and care about. Contact the church office to request a shawl or prayer square, including the opportunity to have it presented during worship as we surround the recipient with our collective prayers.

We are deeply grateful for the caring hands of Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held, Sueanne Rhegician and all who have contributed their time, creativity, and gifts to this ministry. Their faithful work extends God's love one stitch at a time.

And there is room for more caring hands! Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, or would simply like to learn, you are welcome to join this ministry.

So, take a moment to explore the display. Notice the colors, appreciate the craftsmanship, and remember the prayers woven into every piece. Then consider who might need this gift of warmth and encouragement or how you might help create the next one.

Together, stitch by stitch and prayer by prayer, we share God's love, strengthen our connections, and remind one another that we are never alone.



Deadline for December Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the December newsletter, please email newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, November 8.

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

[Style guide can be found here](#)

Welcoming Friends And Growing Our Community

RECEIVED INTO THE ST. JOHN'S FAMILY OCTOBER 18

We celebrate how God continues to draw people from all walks of life into our faith family. New relationships take root and see people discover a place where they can feel welcomed as their full and authentic selves, with their interests, their questions, and who they are with us as children of God. At St. John's UCC, Fullerton, we celebrate every person who walks through our doors and becomes part of our shared journey of faith.

Every new face is an opportunity to practice what we proclaim. St. John's UCC, Fullerton shares a radical hospitality that means more than simply saying hello. It means creating a community where people know they are valued, their stories matter, their questions are welcome, and their gifts have a place.

When we say, "You are...
WELCOME HERE!" we mean it.

We received: **Samara Bush, Pat Demmy, Bob DiBruno, Don DiBruno, Lyra Gaston-Grimes, Brooke Heffelfinger, George Isleib, Sarina Milito & Klaus, Brian Roth.**

Emily Herpel also requested to have her membership transferred to St. John's!

There is always room for one more at the table. Welcome home to St. John's!



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

Bazaar Setup – Sunday, November 8, to Friday, November 13 Inclusive – Church will be open from 9:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday to set up tables & price items. Baked goods & candy sale items are due on Thursday & Friday. See Amy or Carol.

St. John’s Bazaar – Saturday, November 14 – 9:00am to 2:00pm in Fox Hall. Use elevator entrance. Choose from a vast selection of attic treasures & yard sale items. Craft sale, baked goods & candy sale. Stop by for lunch. See Amy or Carol.

Pastie Sale Pickup – Thursday, November 19 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm & **Sunday, November 22** – after worship. Come to Fox Hall. See Carol.

“Operation Santa” Mitten Tree – Deadline Sunday, November 22 to receive contributions for Phoebe Ministries and/or Valley Youth House. See Carol.

Movie & Ice Cream Night – Friday, December 11 – 7:00pm – “KLAUS” Movie from our Advent movie series, ice cream & toppings, popcorn, snacks & beverages. See Pastor Steve.

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.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – \$12 coupon entitles you to a gourmet burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

**Watch for notices of arrival of a new supply of palm-held pew Crosses.
RaiseRight Gift Cards have arrived – See Carol.**

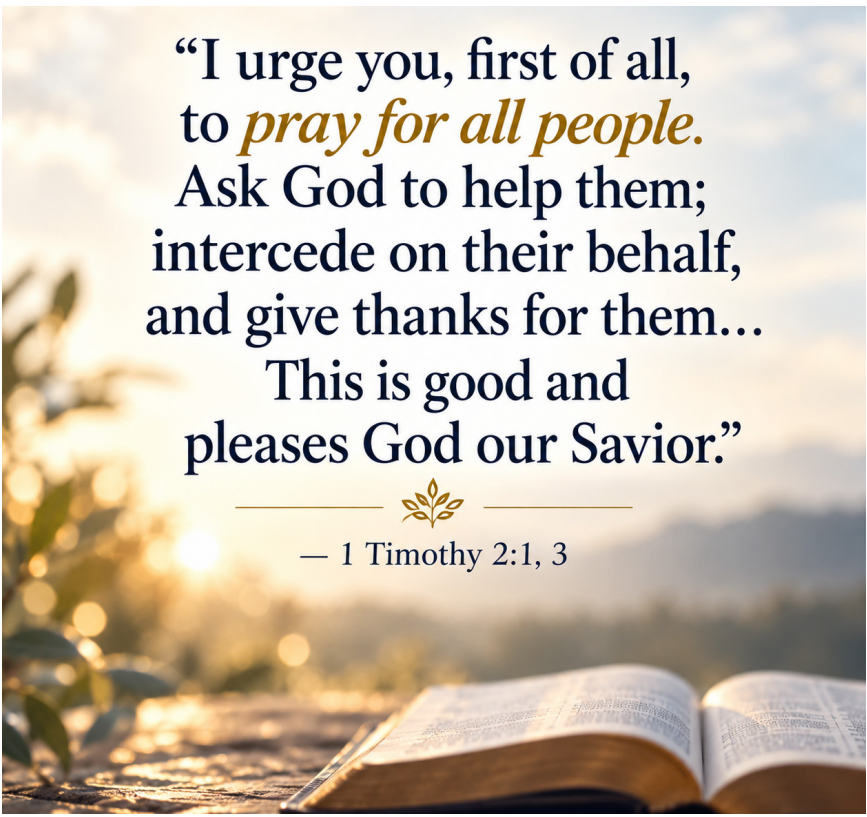
“Fun-Raising” Committee Contacts:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

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



When We Pray, We Care for One Another



“I urge you, first of all,
to *pray for all people*.
Ask God to help them;
intercede on their behalf,
and give thanks for them...
This is good and
pleases God our Savior.”



— 1 Timothy 2:1, 3

Prayer is one of the ways we put our faith into practice. It turns our attention toward others, opens our hearts to their joys and struggles, and reminds us that every life matters to God. We may not be able to change someone's circumstances, but we can hold them in prayer and offer a tangible expression of our love and care.

At St. John's, prayer is woven throughout our life together. Our Ministry Staff and Prayer Team lift up the needs and celebrations of our congregation. Our Visitation and Bereavement Ministries offer prayerful presence during life's tender moments. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry shares handmade reminders of God's love, and our Prayer Group provides opportunities to pray for others in times of immediate and ongoing need.

Prayer isn't just the work of a designated ministry. It belongs to all of us! You don't need special words or training, just a willing heart and a moment to remember someone in God's presence.

Here are a few ways to participate:

Share your prayers. Place a concern, name, or celebration in the Prayer Basket at the Welcome Table.

Invite others to pray. Use the prayer notebook to share requests for the Ministry Staff or inclusion in the worship bulletin.

Carry someone in prayer. Take the weekly prayer list and remember those named throughout your week.

Make prayer personal. When someone shares a struggle or celebration, ask if you may pray for them.

Prayer changes us, too. It helps us listen more deeply, respond with greater compassion, and recognize that we are connected through God's love. We may never know the full impact of a prayer offered quietly, but we can trust that every act of faithful care matters.

Who might God be inviting you to hold in prayer this week? Start with one name and one moment of prayer. Together, these simple acts become a powerful expression of who we are as St. John's, a community committed to worshipping, loving, and serving one another and our neighbors, no matter what!

As we pray... Worship, Love, and Serve — No Matter What!

Wooden Crosses



We have currently exhausted our supply of the palm-held crosses made from the old oak pews in the sanctuary, but our resident woodmaker and member Pete Mohr assures us he will be working on making some more very soon. The "Fund-Raising" Committee is offering this keepsake item for a donation of at least \$10.00 or more per family. Please see Amy Feidler any Sunday to put your name on a waiting list.

November

1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 8:30am Friendship Class Room 201 9:30am All Saints Day	2	3 ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE! 10:00am Staff Meeting Room 201 6:00pm Bells Sanctuary 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance Committee	4 9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba Fox 7:00pm SAA Recov 302 7:00pm Mission M
8 BAZAAR SET UP IN FOX HALL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am Friendship Class Room 201 9:30am 24th Sunday after Pentecost	9 BAZAAR SET UP IN FOX HALL	10 BAZAAR SET UP IN FOX HALL 10:00am Staff Meeting Room 201 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	11 VETERANS DAY BAZAAR SET U 9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting Gro 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting Gro 6:30pm Zumba Fox 7:00pm SAA Recovery
15 8:30am Friendship Class Room 201 9:30am 25th Sunday after Pentecost 11:00am Annual Meeting Fox Hall	16 6:00pm "Fun-Raising" Committee	17 9:00am Newsletter Collating 10:00am Staff Meeting Room 201 6:00pm Bells Sanctuary	18 9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting Gro 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting Gro 6:30pm Zumba Fox 7:00pm SAA Recovery
22 "OPERATION SANTA" DEADLINE 8:30am Friendship Class Room 201 9:30am Reign of Christ Sunday 11:00am Pastie Orders Pickup Fox Hall	23 9:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Choir	24 10:00am Staff Meeting Room 201	25 9:00am Verso Chat w/ 12:00pm Painting Gro 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Painting Gro 6:00pm Thanksgiving 7:00pm SAA Recovery
29 8:30am Friendship Class Room 201 9:30am First Sunday of Advent	30 11am Lady PEEPS City View Diner	<div> If inclement weather Sunday service will be www.foxhall.org </div>	

ber 2026

<p>with Pastor Steve Zoom Group</p> <p>Group Room 301 x Hall ery Group Room</p> <p>Meeting - Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Visitation Committee 6:30pm Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00pm St. George School</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Men's Breakfast - CANCELED THIS MONTH ONLY 9:00am Mountain Valley Association Fall Meeting 9:30am Zumba Fox Hall</p>
<p>11</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED UP IN FOX HALL with Pastor Steve Zoom up</p> <p>up Room 301 Hall Group Room 302</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BAZAAR SET UP IN FOX HALL 6:30pm Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BAZAAR SET UP IN FOX HALL 5:00pm St. George School</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Bazaar 9:30am Zumba Fox Hall</p>
<p>18</p> <p>with Pastor Steve Zoom up</p> <p>up Room 301 Hall Group Room 302</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00pm Pastie Order Pickup Fox Hall 6:30pm Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00pm St. George School</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Zumba Fox Hall</p>
<p>25</p> <p>with Pastor Steve Zoom up</p> <p>up Room 301 Service Sanctuary Group Room 302</p>	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING 6:30pm Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING 5:00pm St. George School</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Zumba Fox Hall</p>

ent weather requires cancellation of
ces, notices will be on Channel 69 news or
v.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter

Our Story of Generosity

Thank you for being part of the story. We appreciate Paul Raszler, Marion Demilio, DonnaLee Yeatts and Rev. Bob Stevens for sharing their faith and experience of God's generosity in their lives to inspire us. Thank you St. John's for all the ways you help us continue to Worship, Love, and Serve — No Matter What!

Stewardship Testimonial by Rev. Bob Stevens

There Our Hearts Will Be

I know St. John's Consistory members are reviewing this year's expenses and preparing a budget for next year. Coincidentally I recently was looking over expenses for the Stevens-Boyd household. And Janet and I have been talking about our offerings and contribution to St. John's, looking ahead to what we'll be giving to the church next year. (We're probably ahead of most of you in this because I'm chairing the Generosity Committee, so we've been talking about stewardship for a few weeks already!)

When Janet and I decided to join, we were happy to discover that St. John's had an electronic offering system. Not every church does that, but it always made sense to us that churches should provide this for its members. Like many other people, we automate so many of our expenses: Netflix and Apple TV, gym membership, utilities, news and magazine subscriptions, etc.

That not only makes it easier for us — no checks to write! — but our church treasurer, Sue Weldner, would tell you it's a lot easier for the church too. When the church knows we can count on regular and consistent income from our members, it is easier to budget for expenses (and pay bills).

But it's not just for convenience's sake that we do this. Stewardship is a spiritual practice, and generosity is an act of faith. And we figure, if we can make a financial commitment paying all those other expenses, we certainly can make a faithful commitment to contribute to our church. After all, that's where our heart is!

You might think you have no talent or don't know enough to serve, but you will be amazed at what you can accomplish or what ideas you might inspire.

For St. John's to continue its ministries and its outreach to the community, I would ask you to consider how you can share your resources by increasing your giving and becoming involved in at least one of the many committees offered at our church. You might meet people you didn't know and find new friends.

COMMITMENT CARD // FOR CHURCH RECORDS Envelope # _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I/We plan to give \$ _____ each ☐ week ☐ month
 beginning _____ (date) for an annual total of \$ _____

I/We understand that this commitment can be changed at any time
 by contacting the church office.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:21

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

With the Estimate of Giving cards and information mailed to everyone, on Sunday, October 25 and November 1, we present them in our worship in an act of dedication and consecration. Then our Financial Secretary will calculate the estimates from what you turn in toward our estimate of funding support anticipated for 2027.

We're asking EVERYONE to return an Estimate of Giving Card. Along with the total estimates being shared by Michelle to the Stewardship and Finance Committee (just the total, not who intends to give what) the final Proposed Budget which has been presented to the Consistory for recommendation to the congregation for our Fall Meeting on November 15, is also shared with us.

At our Fall Congregational meeting, we elect new 2027 Consistory members and adopt our budget for 2027. Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith will be our preacher for the morning and lead us in what we believe will be a decisive moment of faith for St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

You're invited to participate in the ministry of your church. Every person, every gift, every action of support in ministry matters as we seek to fulfill the mission given to us by God, led by Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit. What we do next will guide us for the coming year and we want YOU to be involved.

Plan now if possible to be present on November 15, and join the church family in this demonstration of generosity as we share our estimates of giving to fund our ministries and share our intention to Worship, Love and Serve... No Matter What!



Verso-Chat Lectionary Study

Wednesdays at 9:00am on Zoom

What might happen when we slow down, listen to Scripture together, and discover how God's Word speaks to the questions and experiences of our lives? Each Wednesday, Verso-Chat explores the readings that will shape our upcoming worship, sharing perspectives, asking questions, and discovering new insights together.

This November, we begin the readings for the new lectionary Year B cycle for Advent, that helps us think of the many ways in which God urges us to prepare our lives for the coming of the promised Messiah. While we often think of the angels, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus and the journey to Bethlehem for his birth, we are also reminded of the coming Christ in glory. How will we be invited to open our hearts together?

No special preparation or biblical expertise is needed—just bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. Each conversation stands on its own, so join us whenever you can. You might even hear one of your insights find its way into a Sunday sermon!

For more information and the Zoom connection, contact Pastor Steve or Samara Bush in the church office. Make room for curiosity, connection, and growing together in faith.

Come curious. Get connected. Grow in faith.



VERSO-CHAT

Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

What if one good question could open the door to a new understanding of God, ourselves, or one another? Curiosity invites us to look beyond what we already know, listen with open hearts, and discover how Jesus' teaching and example can shape the way we live each day.

At St. John's, Adult Faith Formation offers a welcoming place to ask questions, share our stories, listen to new perspectives, and grow together. You don't need all the answers or a Bible expert's knowledge. Just come as you are, bring your curiosity, and discover the joy of learning and growing in faith together. There is a place for you at the table.

Come curious. Get connected. Grow in faith.

Friendship Class

Sundays at 8:15am

Start your Sunday with coffee, donuts, good conversation, and good friends! The Friendship Class offers a relaxed, welcoming space to share stories, explore faith and generosity, and discover how Jesus' example shapes our lives.

Whether you're a longtime participant or joining us for the first time, bring your questions and curiosity. There's a place for you at the table!

Come curious. Get connected. Grow in faith.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Order forms are now available [on St. John's website](#) or in the Sanctuary.

Pickup for flowers will be immediately following service on Christmas Eve

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Entered the Church Eternal

*"I have fought the good fight;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.*

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

We remember Ron Stocker (90) and pray for his wife, Joan and family. Ron and Joan have been living in the Phoebe Homes apartments here in Allentown. He passed away September 21, 2026, and Samantha Kistler and Rev. Steve Davis officiated his memorial service.

<https://www.stephensfuneral.com/obituaries/Ronald-L-Stocker?obId=49662574>



Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

Phyllis Ambearle

Anita Beil

Dorothea Biehn

Frank Cszasz

Phyllis Cszasz

Janet Ebert

Jim Ebert

Milton Focht

Sally Gibson

Sandy Glass

Tracey Glass

Lucille Hicks

Geraldine Keim

Dale Millham

Grace Mohr

Karen Moyer

Eleanor O'Donnell

Mary Jane Ott

Bert Smith

Leona Snyder

Susan Stettler

Joan Stocker

Nancy Weaver

Bonnie Weikel

Joan Yura

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

BAZAAR

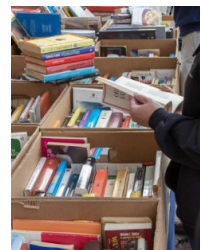
**Saturday, November 14
9:00am to 2:00pm - Fox Hall**



Seasonal

Household Items & More

Jewelry & Purses



Candy & Bake Sale

Toys & Games

Books & CDs



Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers

Hotdogs Pulled Pork BBQ

Chili Turkey Vegetable Soup

Snacks Beverages

Crafts

What to Know About Our



What's one man's trash is another man's treasure!

*Jewelry * Purses * Linens * Knick Knacks * Books * CDs
Small Appliances * Dishes * Glassware * Pots & Pans
Crafts * Toys & Games * Puzzles * Sports Equipment
Household Furnishings * Seasonal Décor * Tools*

Come to the **CRAFTERS** table where our St. John's crafters "Keeping You in Stitches" have been busy all year long with a vast assortment of t-towels, table runners, bowl cozies, dishcloths, household decorations, baby bibs, baby sweaters, and so much more. They will also have Christmas holiday items to choose from.

Our **BAKERS** have been hard at work offering a wide variety of goodies including such favorites as shoofly pies, funny cakes, and cut-out cookies. If you have a sweet tooth, our **CANDY MAKERS** have a selection of candies that include peanut clusters and white chocolate covered pretzels among other tasty treats.

STOP IN FOR LUNCH. You will find a choice of hamburgers & cheeseburgers, hotdogs, pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, turkey vegetable soup, chili, snacks, and beverages. Dine-in / take-out available.

Saturday, November 14, from 9:00am to 2:00pm in Fox Hall





FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 7:00pm • FOX HALL



Get into the Christmas spirit with a fun evening of movies, ice cream, and fellowship! Join us for a showing of *Klaus*, one of the featured films in our Advent message series.



This heartwarming animated film follows Jesper, a reluctant postman who befriends a mysterious toymaker named Klaus. Together, their acts of kindness transform a divided town and bring a delightful new twist to the legend of Santa Claus.



Nominated for an Academy Award and winner of seven Annie Awards, *Klaus* is a holiday treat for all ages!



Enjoy ice cream with a variety of toppings, popcorn, snacks, hot chocolate, and other beverages.



Plan to attend! Sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary (available soon), or contact the church office with the number attending.



IronPigs Fundraising Opportunity for St. John's

WANT TO JOIN THE VOLUNTEER GROUP TEAM?

Operating a concession stand at sporting events has proven to be an excellent fund-raising source for non-profit organizations at dozens of stadiums and arenas across the country. An organized and well-motivated group can earn hundreds of dollars per game for their organization. In addition, you get to participate in the excitement of IronPigs baseball at Coca Cola Park (renamed Jefferson Park).

The Volunteer Group Program at IronPigs is to schedule non-profit groups to supplement their hourly employees to work events at the park. Our church members would work at the concession stands or portable kiosks during events and will earn an hourly rate. A contribution will be made to St. John's of \$12 per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked by all the volunteers. No volunteer will receive personal compensation.



The "Fun-Raising" Committee is considering forming a Volunteer Group from St. John's for the 2027 season. To participate, here are some things you need to know:

1. Age requirement is 14 and older. Identification is required. Children under the age of 16 may only participate in events Friday through Sunday while in school and can only volunteer until 9pm. Each volunteer is required to sign in and sign out at each event.
2. Volunteers serving alcohol must be 18 years of age—proof of age required. No volunteer is allowed to consume alcoholic beverages on the grounds of the facility.
3. Volunteers will be given work assignments upon arrival at the park as well as quick on-site training. There is no guarantee the volunteers will be working as a group and may be disbursed individually throughout the park as needed.
4. Volunteers are to report approximately two hours prior to the start of the game to cook the food and/or prepare the stations for selling. Each group member is required to stay until the station chores and cleaning are completed.
5. There is a strict dress code for shirts, pants, & shoes. Hats will be provided and are mandatory.

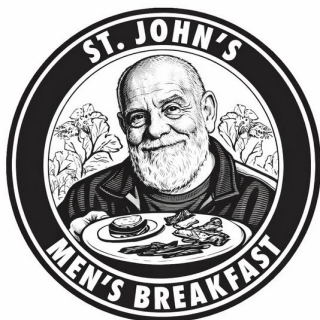
If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to join the St. John's Volunteer Group or have questions, please contact Amy Feidler. Christina Bach, who's a member of St. John's custodial staff, volunteered this past year for a charity and is an excellent source to also answer any questions you may have.



The Lady PEEPS will meet on Monday, November 30th at 11am. We will gather for lunch at City View Diner. Mark your calendars, PEEPS!!

Contact person is Regi Mohr (610-390-0872).

Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's that normally meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant will not be gathering this month, due to a conflict with the Mountain Valley Association meeting. Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 5, at 8:30am when Rev. James Robison will be our guest speaker. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would

like to know more about this group, you can contact Pastor Steve. Gentlemen, please attend and bring someone!

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!



During the upcoming holidays, many of you will win turkeys, get them as gifts, or earn them with the supermarket rewards program. If you would like to donate your turkey for our fundraising events, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 to make arrangements.

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.

"Jonah"

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2027

Bus trip to see "Jonah" at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, plus buffet lunch at Yoder's restaurant after the show. Price will be \$160 per person, \$10 more than last year due to increased bus price.

RaiseRight Gift Card Sales

For everyone who ordered RaiseRight gift cards for the holidays, your order has been processed. As soon as the church receives the cards, you will be notified when they can be picked up. Thank you to Karen Stoits for compiling all the orders. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at (610) 262-0746 or Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572.

Reminder: Pastie Sale Pickup

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our recent Pastie Sale. Pickup is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and on Sunday, November 22, following worship in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com

Applebee's Burgers For A Cause

Now available! Each \$12 certificate is good for the purchase of any burger on Applebee's menu. Most of their burgers cost much more, so this sale is a great deal for you, and for St. John's. They also make great stocking stuffers.

Please see Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates, or call the church office.



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

Bazaar Setup – Sunday, November 8, to Friday, November 13 Inclusive – Church will be open from 9:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday to set up tables & price items. Baked goods & candy sale items are due on Thursday & Friday. See Amy or Carol.

St. John’s Bazaar – Saturday, November 14 – 9:00am to 2:00pm in Fox Hall. Use elevator entrance. Choose from a vast selection of attic treasures & yard sale items. Craft sale, baked goods & candy sale. Stop by for lunch. See Amy or Carol.

Pastie Sale Pickup – Thursday, November 19 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm & **Sunday, November 22** – after worship. Come to Fox Hall. See Carol.

“Operation Santa” Mitten Tree – Deadline Sunday, November 22 to receive contributions for Phoebe Ministries and/or Valley Youth House. See Carol.

Movie & Ice Cream Night – Friday, December 11 – 7:00pm – “KLAUS” Movie from our Advent movie series, ice cream & toppings, popcorn, snacks & beverages. See Pastor Steve.

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.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – \$12 coupon entitles you to a gourmet burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

**Watch for notices of arrival of a new supply of palm-held pew Crosses.
RaiseRight Gift Cards have arrived – See Carol.**

“Fun-Raising” Committee Contacts:

Amy Feidler, Chairperson (835) 210-5944

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



November Birthdays

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

11/1.....Carol Seagreaves Martha Ann Strauss	11/16.....Jeffrey Phillips Kyle Szoke
11/2.....Tyler Stocker Karen Stoits	11/17.....Beth Neitz
11/4.....James Ebert	11/18.....Jean Vanfleet
11/5.....Nicole Headman	11/21.....Beverly Rumble Kathy Roth
11/6.....Cole Buskirk	11/22.....Kendra Fox
11/7.....Lissa Wuchter Roxanne DeMilio Colleen Kulhamer	11/23.....Andrew Kulhamer Tracey Glass
11/8.....Charlene Hoff Connie Viglione	11/24.....Geoffrey Jackson
11/9.....Candra Zellner	11/25.....Carol Raszler Mia Venanzi
11/10.....Sharon Antrim	11/26.....Paul Long Lauren Schutts
11/12.....Zander Rarich	11/28.....Susan Weldner
11/15.....Jack Ohl	11/29.....Alyssa Amaral



November Wedding Anniversaries

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

11/11

Randy & Dee Schlenker

11/18

Robert & Becky Beckwith

11/19

Thomas & Emilie Moyer

11/23

William & Lori Fink

Jeffrey & Corrina Purdon

11/27

Stanley & Linda Luckenbill

Donald & Lynn Miller Jr.





“Operation Santa” – Mitten Tree

The Mission Committee is happy to announce that we are again sponsoring “Operation Santa.” We are encouraging everyone to consider giving a donation to Phoebe Ministries and/or Valley Youth House. From your contribution, the staff at VYH will shop and purchase Christmas gifts for their clients. From your contribution, the staff at Phoebe will purchase Christmas gift certificates for Phoebe’s beauty salon/barber shop and for Phoebe’s gift shop to give to their residents.



Phoebe Ministries was founded in 1903 and affiliated with the UCC. Phoebe is a multi-facility organization specializing in healthcare, housing, and support services for seniors. It is guided by its mission to provide charitable care to residents of its community regardless of their ability to pay.

Valley Youth House began in the Lehigh Valley in 1973 as a youth shelter for homeless young people. The mission of VYH is to provide prevention and intervention services, counseling, life skills, and health services to abused, neglected, and homeless youth and their families.

Look for the Mitten Tree in the lounge area during the month of November. Take a colored paper mitten for Phoebe and/or VYH. Your contribution can be mailed to the office, put in the offering plate, or donated online or by text. All checks are payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. Be sure to specify Phoebe or VYH in the memo section. Deadline to receive contributions is Sunday, November 22. See Jean McGonigle or Carol Raszler if you have any questions.

Whitehall Food Pantry

Our goal is to collect in November and December 200 boxes or bags of stuffing mix to distribute for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Please bring what you can as soon as possible and place food in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. Monetary contributions are always welcome and can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or given online or by text. If you'd like to volunteer at the pantry in the morning or evening of the 4th Monday of the month, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com. The pantry is located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3900 Mechanicsville Rd. in Whitehall.

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 4:00pm to 6:00pm. 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, 11/1	St. John the Baptist Church (Social Hall)	3024 S. Ruch St., Coplay	(610) 730-3184
Tuesday, 11/17	St. John's Lutheran Church (Meal provided by Samuel Owens Rest.)	18 S. Third St., Coplay	(484) 695-3696
Sunday, 12/6	Muslim Assoc. of the Lehigh Valley	1988 Schadt Ave., Whitehall	(703) 346-8698
Tuesday, 12/15	Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church	3300 Seventh St., Whitehall	(610) 434-8661

Medical Debt Relief – Final Outcome

The final results are in for "Love Your Neighbor Churches" Medical Debt Relief Campaign. Organizer Rev. Kris Snyder (pastor at Union UCC in Neffs) reported that \$52,403.04 was received from the 14 churches and more than 20 businesses that participated. St. John's had contributed \$585.00 towards the event;

however, members may have made additional contributions by posting directly online.

Our initial goal was \$20,000 and we are happy to report that we reached 262% of our goal! That means that a total of \$9,033,988.27 of medical debt was totally eliminated. Almost 7,000 of our neighbors now have a clean slate. The recipients will receive a letter in the next few weeks telling them this good news. In the letter they will learn more about the churches involved in this effort. The majority of recipients (6,560) were from Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties. The remaining recipients were from Pike, Luzerne, Montgomery and various other counties.

Other Outreaches

- Two-thirds of the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering is used by UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. We will continue to receive contributions for this special offering until October 31.

- The CROP Walk was held on Sunday, October 18, starting at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in Allentown. Our walkers and the amount of contributions we received from our members will be posted in the next newsletter.

How did St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	Sept 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 649.00	\$6,339.00	\$8,719.00	\$9,964.00
Neighbors in Need	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 30.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 111.44	\$1,718.43	\$2,338.00	\$2,338.00
Mountain Valley Assn.	\$ 80.00	\$ 835.00	N/A	N/A

Mission Outreach giving for September 2026 totaled \$985.44

Dear Congregation:

I would like to express the district's sincere appreciation for your generous donation and delivery of school supplies for the students in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Words cannot fully convey our heartfelt gratitude for the kindness you have shown to our school community. Your donation will enable us to provide students in need with the necessary supplies to enhance their education during this new school year. We are truly grateful to be part of such a caring community!

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

Thank you to Andria Dallago and Lynn Saitta for donating a huge selection of apples for our congregation on October 11. The apples were presented in memory of the October 8th birthday of their mother Freda Albright, who passed away on April 10, 2024, at the age of 85.

"Fun-Raising" &
Mission Committees

Daylight Saving Time Ends



BUDGET UPDATE

LAST WEEK

October 18 – October 24, 2026



TOTAL OFFERINGS

\$2,516.00

OCTOBER OFFERINGS

\$12,656 received toward \$22,500 goal

56.2%

RECEIVED

\$12,656.00

GOAL

\$22,500.00

REMAINING

\$9,844.00

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING

\$180,551 received



RECEIVED

\$180,551

ANNUAL GOAL

\$270,000

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Sep 2026

Income	Electronic	9/6/2026	9/13/2026	9/20/2026	9/27/2026	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$5,503.40	\$4,449.35	\$1,095.25	\$1,928.00	\$2,358.00	\$15,334.00
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,335.50	\$360.00				\$1,695.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp		\$195.00	\$1,080.00	\$3,035.00	\$(2,325.00)	\$1,985.00
Endowment Interest						\$0.00
Flowers		\$85.00	\$135.00			\$220.00
Faith Formation	\$45.00		\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$65.00
Special Gifts	\$206.81					\$206.81
Total	\$7,090.71	\$5,089.35	\$2,315.25	\$4,968.00	\$43.00	\$19,506.31

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$12,057.30	\$14,297.32	\$(2,240.02)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,014.71	\$9,517.97	\$(503.26)
Building Services	\$2,495.90	\$3,156.25	\$(660.35)
Faith Formation	\$(10.00)	\$104.17	\$(114.17)
Parish Programs	\$1,542.50	\$2,160.42	\$(617.92)
Fundraising Tithe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$25,100.41	\$29,236.12	\$(4,135.71)

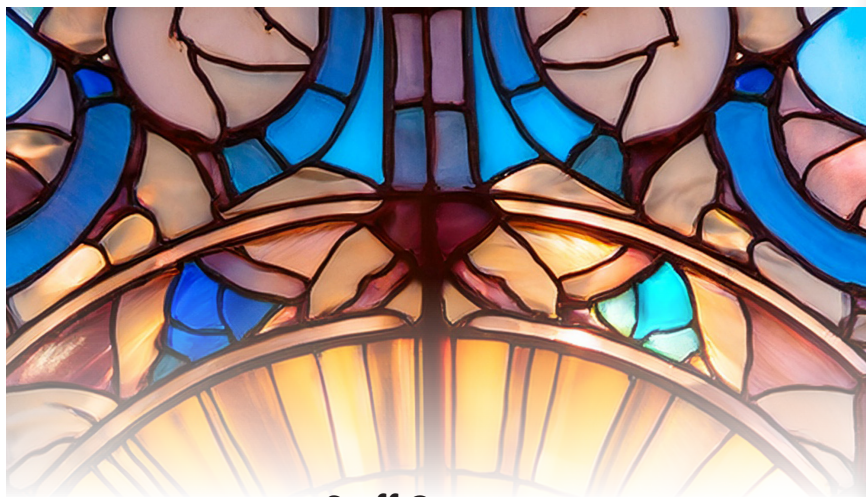
	Month	Year
Total Income	\$19,506.31	\$229,422.03
Total Expenses	\$25,100.41	\$247,398.86
Net INCOME (LOSS)	\$(5,594.10)	\$(17,976.83)

Mission Giving, Sep 2026

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$649.00
Neighbors in Need	\$145.00
Mountain Valley Assoc	\$180.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$111.44
Total	\$1,085.44

St John's UCC Fullerton Account Balances For Month Ending, Sep 2026

Account	Aug-26	Sep-26	Difference
Checking Account	\$90,544.70	\$102,445.36	\$11,900.66
Giant Card Funds	\$1,837.00	\$1,787.00	\$(50.00)
Weis Card Funds	\$696.00	\$1,296.00	\$600.00
sub-total Checking	\$93,077.70	\$105,528.36	\$12,450.66
Restricted/Property Investments	\$241,920.00	\$132,387.00	\$(109,533.00)
sub-total Investments	\$241,920.00	\$132,387.00	\$(109,533.00)
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$1,039,467.00	\$1,034,352.00	\$(5,115.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,374,464.70	\$1,272,267.36	\$(102,197.34)
Cornerstone Pavilion Loan	\$(79,884.72)	\$(79,758.45)	\$126.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(79,884.72)	\$(79,758.45)	\$126.27
NET FUND BALANCE	\$1,294,579.98	\$1,192,508.91	\$(102,071.07)



Staff Contacts

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Remembering Ralph T. Miller, Jr.



God Is Good
All The Time.
All The Time
God Is Good.

Ralph, was the loving and devoted husband of Janet M. Miller for 62 years, longtime resident of Fullerton, and member at St. John's, fondly known as the Head Gardner. He and Janet beautified the church's landscape for many years.

Ralph was born on March 11, 1934 in Allentown, the only child of Mildred and Ralph T. Miller, Sr. As a child, the family moved to Bakersfield, California, but his mother was lonesome and missing family and friends, and they soon returned to Pennsylvania, settling in Fullerton.

Ralph enjoyed his lifetime career in retail groceries, working at four different stores throughout his life. Ralph had a keen sense of humor and loved to make people laugh, especially by performing imitations. He was very kind, friendly, and willing to help anyone. Ralph was an animal lover, and he and Janet raised many dachshunds through the years. Ralph and Janet also traveled the world together, visiting Canada, Mexico, Morocco, the Caribbean, many countries in Europe, and across the United States, including Hawaii.

Ralph passed peacefully on Christmas night, December 20, 2020, at 86 years old.