

**BRUCE
POPE**

St. John's **CONNECTIONS**

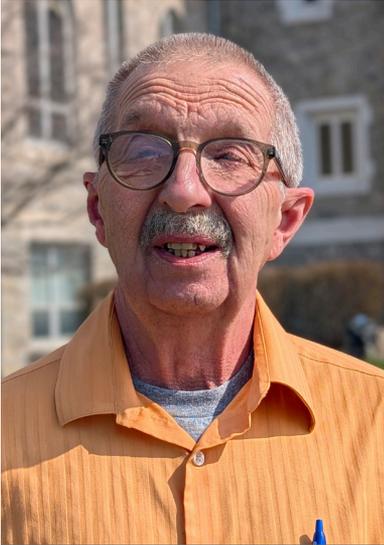
A monthly update from the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Volume 19 • Issue 163 • April 2026

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On The Cover...



BRUCE POPE

My name is Bruce Pope. I was a member of Emmanuel UCC in Allentown, where my wife, Bobbi, and I met at a youth group function. We were married in August 1977. During my time at Emmanuel, I served on Consistory as both a Deacon and an Elder, chaired many committees over the years, sang in the choir, and was active as a Boy Scout leader.

In June 2015, Bobbi and I attended our first service at St. John's. Everyone was friendly and welcoming, and it didn't take long for us to feel

at home—especially as we realized we already knew quite a few members. We officially became members in December 2018. I serve as chair of the property committee and enjoy attending the Men's Breakfast Group.

I love working in the yard, planting a vegetable garden, cooking, and walking. I'm also a fan of the Philadelphia Phillies and the Indianapolis Colts. We have two adult sons, Greg and Ben, and four grandchildren.

St. John's has become an important part of our lives, and we are happy to be part of a church congregation that is so active in the community.

Dear St. John's UCC members,

Thank you very much for the beautiful Prayer Shawl and prayers during my illness. I appreciate this very much.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Gutekunst

Living Hope Every Day! The Truth of Easter Faith.



Every year it happens like clockwork.

On Easter morning the sanctuary is full. The pews are bright with spring colors, the lilies and other flowers are fragrant and beautiful, the choir is singing with extra gusto, and people we

haven't seen in a while return with warm smiles and cheerful greetings and know that our love for them continues. It is a beautiful thing. Truly, Easter has a way of drawing people in. Deep in the human heart something wants to hear again that life is stronger than death, that hope is not foolish, and that God is still bringing new life out of the places we thought were finished.

But then, if we're honest, the following Sundays can feel... quieter.

Pastors sometimes joke that after the triumph of Easter Sunday, the disciples seem to disappear again. The sanctuary that was overflowing one week may feel a little roomier the next. It's not unlike that first Easter story itself. The resurrection had happened, but the disciples were still hiding behind locked doors, unsure what to do next.

And maybe that's part of the truth of Easter faith.

The resurrection of Jesus was not just a single morning of celebration. It was the beginning of something the disciples had to slowly learn how to live. They moved from fear to courage, from hiding to proclaiming, from uncertainty to hope. Resurrection didn't end their journey. Resurrection started a new way of living.

Perhaps we're not so different.

Easter Sunday reminds us of something we need to hear again and again: that God's love cannot be defeated, that grace is stronger than our failures, and that even the darkest moments do not have the final word. But learning to live that truth every day, that takes time.

One of the great Easter hymns captures this beautifully: "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song..." and ends with "Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people let us sing!"

The hymn isn't just about a single Sunday morning. It calls us to become "Easter people" — people who carry the joy, the hope, and the courage of the resurrection into ordinary days. Into Monday mornings and quiet Tuesdays. Into the routines and responsibilities that fill our lives.

Because the miracle of Easter isn't only that Jesus rose long ago. The miracle is that resurrection hope continues to rise in us.

It rises when kindness interrupts bitterness.

It rises when forgiveness heals old wounds.

It rises when we choose compassion instead of indifference.

It rises when we believe that God is still working in our lives and in our world.

The earliest Christians didn't celebrate Easter as just a day; they began to see their whole lives through the lens of resurrection. Every act of love became a small echo of that empty tomb. Every moment of courage became a reminder that fear does not have the last word.

So whether the pews are full each week or a little more spacious in the weeks after Easter, the invitation remains the same.

To live as Easter people.

To carry the song beyond the sanctuary.

To let the hope of the resurrection shape how we treat one another, how we face challenges, and how we trust that God is still bringing new life into the world.

The good news of Easter was never meant to stay inside one joyful service. It was meant to become a way of life.

We are the people of St. John's UCC, Fullerton, where...

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

Yours in grace and hope,



Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor



Faith Formation & Worship Celebrations!

Stories That Matter



Stories That Matter

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. This season, we hope you'll engage and join us in Stories That Matter.

Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Confirmation Class

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

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

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

Verso-Chat Lectionary Study
Wednesdays at 9am on Zoom

Friendship Class
Sundays at 8:15am, a time for adult study and sharing



Plan to bring a cut flower
to place in our Resurrection Cross
on Easter Sunday.

Music at St. John's

Holy Week and Easter stand at the very heart of the Christian story - a journey that moves from solemn reflection to overwhelming joy. This sacred week invites us to walk with Christ through the shadows of the cross and into the brilliant light of the resurrection. Each year, it reminds us that sorrow is never the final word; hope, life, and love prevail.

Our congregation experienced this journey in a powerful way this year through the faithful work of the Music Ministry. From the contemplative tones of Holy Week to the triumphant celebration of Easter morning, music helped carry the story of Christ's passion and resurrection into our hearts. Hymns, choral anthems, and instrumental offerings became prayers in sound, guiding us through moments of reflection, reverence, and celebration.

This kind of meaningful worship does not happen by accident. It is the result of many hours of preparation, rehearsal, dedication, and prayer. Week after week, members of the choir and music ministry commit their time and talents so that the congregation can experience worship that is both spiritually rich and musically beautiful.

The willingness of singers, instrumentalists, and volunteers to give so generously of themselves is a true gift to the church. Their efforts help transform our services into moments where scripture and faith come together to tell the story of God's redeeming love through music.

To every member of the Music Ministry: thank you. Your hard work, faithfulness, and passion create worship experiences that stay with us long after the final hymn ends. The beauty and spirit you bring to our services enrich the life of the church in ways that words alone cannot express.

As we give thanks for a meaningful Holy Week and a joyful Easter celebration, we also look ahead with excitement to what comes next for the music program.

You are invited to join the Music Ministry for our first-ever Hymn Festival Concert on Sunday, May 31 at 5:30pm. This special evening of scripture, prayer, congregational singing, and choral and bell

music will celebrate the rich tradition of hymnody, tell the story of the Holy Trinity, and bring our 2025–2026 choral season to a joyful close.

We hope you will join us for this inspiring night of worship and music as we celebrate another wonderful season together.

Patrick Sandt

God in Three Persons
A HYMN FESTIVAL CONCERT

Sunday, May 31 at 5:30pm

St. John's UCC, Fullerton Music Ministry
welcomes ALL for our first-ever hymn festival concert:
An evening of scripture, prayer and music
celebrating *The Holy Trinity*.

Light refreshments to follow in Fox Hall.

A free-will offering will be received
in support of the Music Ministry.

St. John's
UCC, FULLERTON

575 Grape Street - Whitehall, PA 18052
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org
(610) 264-8421

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Week & Easter Season

The post-resurrection stories make it clear that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. Stories That Matter will welcome us to experience the hope and new life of living as Easter people every day.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

APRIL 2, MAUNDY THURSDAY

Hand Washing and Communion Service

The Mandate to Love Each Other

Playlist - Chosen from the Congregation's Steadfast Love
(HEARTS) Playlist

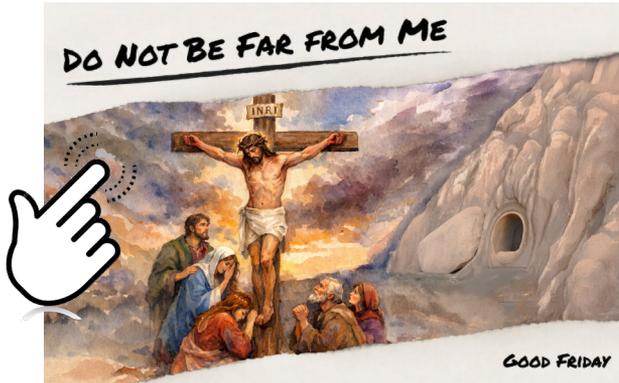


APRIL 3, GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae Service

**Combined Choirs of St. John's UCC, Mickleys
and St. John's UCC, Fullerton**

Playlist - The Hanging Tree from the film The Hunger Games



APRIL 5, EASTER SUNDAY

Resurrection Celebration and Communion

Steadfast Love: Hope

Playlist - It Feels Like It Might Be Hope by Sara Groves



APRIL 12, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Stories That Matter: Unless I See

Sermon Scripture Text: John 20:19-31



APRIL 19, THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Stories That Matter: Astounded Us

Sermon Scripture Text: Luke 24:13-35



APRIL 26, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Stories That Matter: Knowing That Voice

Sermon Scripture Text: John 10:1-10



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wrapped in Love, Warmed in Prayer



Have you noticed the Prayer Shawls as you enter worship? You'll find them near the elevator and coat room, with others lovingly prepared and ready to be shared, and at the back row of pews in the sanctuary when designated for someone in need.

Thank you for helping renew this beautiful ministry of compassion at St. John's. Through the caring hands of those who knit and crochet, each shawl and prayer square becomes a tangible expression of prayer, presence, and love. Given in times of illness, grief, or life's tender moments, they offer warmth and a sacred reminder: no one walks alone.

With every stitch, a quiet message is shared—you are held, remembered, and surrounded by love. We are grateful for the faithful dedication of Connie Viglione, Emilie Moyer, Nancy Weaver, Donna Held, and many others who give their time and gifts so generously.

As you enter the sanctuary, we invite you to pause, notice the display, and offer a prayer. Shawls ready to be shared are placed near the offering plates so the congregation can bless them before they are delivered.

How You Can Participate...

Know someone in need? Contact the church office. A shawl will be placed out for prayer, included in the Prayers of the People, and then delivered as a personal blessing.

Want to help create? If you knit, crochet, quilt — or would like to learn — you are warmly invited to join. New hands and willing hearts are always welcome.

Everyone can participate! Take a moment to pause and pray as you come in to worship and go out to love and serve, adding your voice in prayers to this shared ministry of comfort, care, and love.

Stewardship begins at Home

The kind of wisdom that sticks with you - by Bob Stevens



I don't remember exactly when my mother started giving me an allowance, probably as I came into my tweens. And probably when she got tired of me asking her to buy things for me. I know it was when I was old enough to go "downtown" by myself on Saturdays. That was the day of the week she left my allowance on the kitchen table.

I learned a few things about money from that allowance, especially how fast it could be spent! I debated within myself every week exactly what I would spend it on. Woolworth's 5&10 was a favorite destination: aisle after aisle of enticing purchase possibilities. Marbles and army men, were my favorites. And sometimes I splurged and bought a hot dog at the counter... but then I couldn't afford that 4 ounce bag of cashews I liked to get at the Nut Hut across the street to eat on my way home. Decisions, decisions! It was good practice for when I started earning real money as a paperboy some years later.

I don't remember my mother restricting, or even questioning, how I spent my allowance. But at the beginning she did tell me to "set aside some of your allowance each week" (and later, some of that paperboy income) "to put in the offering at church."

We were members at a very small UCC church on the East Side, and looking back I'm sure that they needed even the nickels and dimes children dropped in the plate. But at the time I asked her why I should put money in, since she herself put an envelope in every week.

She didn't show me the church budget and tell me the church needed it. She didn't say, God says you have to. She certainly didn't say, so people would see what a good little boy you are! She said, "because it helps people. And that's what we do in our family. We

help other people whenever we can.” Even though we ourselves didn’t have very much, this was part of our identity as a family; and as I later came to understand, it was part of our identity as Christians.

So I saved a few coins from each Saturday spending spree to take with me to church the next day (though I should confess occasionally a few nickels I set aside for the offering somehow found their way into a pinball machine). By the time I was old enough to have that paper route, I had begun to understand how good it feels to be part of a family, part of a church community, that shares what they have with others.

That’s what stewardship is for me. Like so many of life’s most important lessons I learned from my mother: this is what we do because this is who we are.

The Keystone Connection



Keystone
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

If you have not looked at the many exciting things happening now that we are a unified new commonwealth of congregations as the Keystone Conference of the UCC, you’re invited to see how clergy and congregations all around can grow in their faith and share hope together at the table of God’s love in Christ.

Each week, just as was available in the former PNEC, the **KEYSTONE CONNECTION** will share upcoming opportunities for continuing education, congregational training and support, and important news from around our area. Take a look today using the link below, or go to the website. <https://keystoneucc.org>

Here’s the link to sign up for the weekly news!

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/nKpYydv/TheKeystoneConnection>

The Keystone Conference Inaugural Annual Meeting

June 5-7, 2026 Millersville University

Register today: <https://keystoneucc.org>

The first Annual Meeting of the newly created Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ will be an historic event! Members from all across the Commonwealth will gather at Millersville University and online in hybrid business and workshop sessions, for incredible worship and meaningful times of learning and sharing together.



Outstanding preachers and worship leaders will bless our opening and closing services. Our General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, and other national church leaders will share presentations and support our work together. Local area leaders will also inspire us and share how we are creating joy by building a bigger table of love and grace together!

If you've never attended a time of learning and worship with 500 other inspired and faithful people, this is your chance. You don't want to miss this historic opportunity!

Would you like to be a delegate for St. John's? We have 3 spots for delegates to represent St. John's, 2 adults and 1 youth/young adult. St. John's has other retired clergy who also often attend and help represent our growing and affirming ministry.

Contact Pastor Steve if you have any questions and are interested in participating.



Ladies, what scripture passages do you hold onto either in difficult times or in times of celebration? The topic of the April meeting of the Lady PEEPS will be "Words with Friends" and our discussion leader will be Jackie Maxon. If you don't have specific favorite scripture passages, this is a great time to reflect on what others have found most inspiring. Participants will share as they feel comfortable to do so. The meeting will be in Fox Hall at 7pm on Tuesday, April 21. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 for further details.

Reminder: Return Easter Baskets for Youth

Ten baskets were given out to members of the congregation to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, knickknacks, or whatever else is going to make it an "eggstravagant" Easter basket! The baskets will be delivered to Pinebrook Family Answers to youth between the ages of 8 to 18 years old who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. All baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, March 29. Contact Emma Rarich at (484) 714-6757 or email at erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions or need further information.



Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 28

We Need You! It's Easy to Help!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is almost here, Saturday, March 28, 10am-12pm and we're excited to welcome children and families from our church and community for this joyful tradition.

But here's the truth: this event only happens if we have enough volunteers. The good news? The tasks are simple, flexible, and even fun - and you don't need any special experience. Just a willing heart and a little time.

We especially need help with:

- Handing out eggs
- Guiding kids to their age-group areas
- Helping children empty eggs in Fox Hall (a favorite job!)
- Welcoming families and assisting with light refreshments

You can serve for part of the morning or the whole event - every bit of help matters. Many hands make this day smooth, joyful, and safe for everyone.

If you've ever thought, "I could help with that," this is your moment. It's one of the easiest ways to make a big impact and be part of the smiles, laughter, and Easter joy. To volunteer, please contact [Samantha Kistler](#) or the church office. We truly need your help to make this happen.



What to Expect: Our Schedule

- 9:45am** — Volunteer Gathering & Briefing (Fox Hall)
- 10:00am** — Event Start - Welcome & Sign-In
- 10:15am** — Hunt Begins (Age-Group Specific)
- 11:00am** — Activity Time (Emptying Eggs, Refreshments in Fox Hall)
- 12:00pm** — Event Conclusion

Don't forget to register! Sign up today using the QR code, or through our website or [Facebook page](#). Let's come together to create a morning of joy - because with just a little help from each of us, something wonderful happens!

Register Here



We LOVE ~ An Urgent and Hopeful Update

In March, our Treasurer, Sue Weldner, shared an update with the Stewardship and Finance Committee and Consistory on our first two months of 2026. We shared her message in worship and share it again here for all to be reminded.

Happy Spring! We've survived the winter hibernation, and we are all ready to get out and enjoy the warm sun! It certainly has been a rough winter all around, and our finances at St Johns have been a casualty of that as well. In the spirit of keeping everyone informed, aware and in a position to help as you are able, the Stewardship & Finance committee would like to share this update.

In January and February, the cold temperatures and snow had a 2-fold negative impact on our finances. We missed a few Sundays completely, and perhaps the cold kept more joining online even on days we were in person. As a result, we've seen the rate of congregational offerings drop 25% in Jan and Feb from last year's giving rate.

At the same time, the cost of snow removal/plowing/salting was \$3,980 for these two months. We did receive \$825 to date to help offset this cost - as always thank you for your response to this need! and we welcome further donations to help with this cost!. In addition, we took steps to cut back on full plowing of lots, we had a generous donation to cover some plowing, we had volunteers and staff step in and do some of the shoveling/salting. Let's hope snow removal is behind us now!

At the end of February, our General Fund balance has decreased by \$17,000 - just over half of our total Fund balance at the start of the year. We currently have \$16,000 remaining in our Fund balance - at this current rate we will deplete our Fund balance in 2-3 months, meaning we will not have cash to pay our expenses. **[Shortfall as of March 15, 2026 -\$23,400]**

All is not lost! God is good, all of the time, and we will find our way through this! It will take our prayers, and our giving. We are asking everyone to consider what they can do to help recover this \$17,000 deficit. Prayer is powerful! And every bit "extra" you can

share financially right now will make a difference! We also have up to \$44,000 in our Restricted funds that Consistory can approve to utilize as/when needed. To sustain the financial needs of the church, we really need our congregational giving to rebound - but these Restricted funds can help us weather a "storm" in the short run if needed.

As always, and questions, input, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Stewardship & Finance committee!

Thanks, Sue



Walking Challenge Update

Here is a little article for the April newsletter. I am going to try to do the Walking Challenge. I know so many people look forward to it every year. I will do the best I can possibly do under my circumstances.

The 2026 St. John's Walking Challenge will be held beginning April 26 and ending on May 23. Contact Sharon Antrim via email or phone to sign up. Thank you

Sharon Antrim - Healthcare Ministry
sharonantrim@yahoo.com
(610) 216-6207



Deadline for May Newsletter

If you would like to contribute an article for the May newsletter, please email newsletter@sjuccf.org by Sunday, April 12.

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

[Style guide recommendations here](#)

5 EASTER 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance	8 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recover
12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour 10:30am Pastie Pickup - Fox Hall	13	14 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Consistory	15 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recover
19 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour	20 6:00pm Fun-Raising Committee	21 9:00am Newsletter Mailing 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Community of Practice 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm PEEPS	22 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recover
26 SPRING CLEANING 8:15am Fellowship Class 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Social Hour Walking Challenge through May 23	27 SPRING CLEANING 9:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Food Pantry	28 SPRING CLEANING 9:30am Staff Meeting	29 SPRING CLEANING 9:00am Verso Chat 12:00pm Painting 6:00pm Painting G 6:30pm Zumba-Fo 7:00pm SAA-Recover

1 2026

<p>with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall y Support-Room 302</p>	<p>2 9:30am Visitation Committee 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>4 8:30am Men's Breakfast - Hamilton Family Restaurant 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall</p>
<p>with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall y Support-Room 302</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Pastie Pickup - Fox Hall 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>10 5:30pm St. George Church School</p>	<p>11 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall</p>
<p>with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall y Support-Room 302</p>	<p>16 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>17 5:30pm St. George Church School</p>	<p>18 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall</p>
<p>with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall y Support-Room 302</p>	<p>23 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>24 SPRING CLEANING 5:30pm St. George Church School</p>	<p>25 SPRING CLEANING 9:30am Zumba-Fox Hall</p>
<p>SPRING CLEANING with Pastor Steve Group Group x Hall y Support-Room 302</p>	<p>30 SPRING CLEANING 7:00pm Choir</p>		

BINGO Night... BIG Success!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our St. Patrick's Day Gift Card Bingo, those who donated food and beverages, and to all the many volunteers who helped make it a success. We are happy to announce that we made a gross profit of \$4529.25. Be sure to mark your calendar for our Flag Day Gift Card Bingo on Friday, June 12.

Tom Moyer & "Fun-Raising" Committee



More fun pictures from "BINGO Night" are on our website:
<https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/gallery>

Applebee's Burger Cards Still Available

The card is good for any burger on Applebee's menu. Many of their burgers cost up to \$17, but with the card will cost you only \$10. The cards never expire, and are good at any Applebee's in our area.

See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler for Burger certificates. Thank you!



Pie Sale Coming Soon

If you were lucky enough to sample one of Andie Dallago's scrumptious homemade pies at a recent Social Hour after worship, her pies will be offered for sale for Father's Day on Sunday, June 21. You will be able to choose from Whipped Coconut Cream Pie (\$12) or Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie (\$14). These pies also freeze well. The "Fun-Raising" Committee will have further details and a sign-up or order sheet in the May newsletter.



Basket Social & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 2 – 9am to 2pm

Sunday, May 3 – before and after worship

May is fast approaching, and we need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social.

Monetary donations are also accepted if you would like us to assemble a basket for you or if you would like to donate a gift card.

There are many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following:

Books	Children/Baby	Sports	Beauty/Spa
Baking	Games/Toys	Camping	Gardening/Plants
Beverages	Snacks	Picnic	Linens
Food	Car Care	Holiday	Puzzles
Wines	Crafts	Entertainment	Pet Supplies

The list is endless. **Be sure to include a tag listing all the items in your basket.**

Tickets are \$5.00 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet) with cash or checks payable to St. John's UCC. They will be available to purchase ahead of time in April on Sundays before or after worship as well as on the days of the Basket Social. Tickets will be pulled at 11:30am on Sunday, May 3.

Donations are also needed for our Bake Sale.

We ask you to bring your basket donation to the church no later than Sunday, April 26, and your baked goods by Friday, May 1

If you have any questions or would like to donate a basket or baked goods, please contact:

Amy Feidler (835) 210-5944 alfeidler@gmail.com

Carol Raszler (610) 393-7572 craszler@aol.com



St. John's
UCC, FULLERTON

BASKET SOCIAL & BAKE SALE



BASKETS GALORE!

MAY 2 - MAY 3

26 TICKETS for \$5

TICKETS DRAWN 11:30am - MAY 3

St John's UCC-Fullerton

575 Grape St (610) 264-8421

SATURDAY 5/2 9am-2pm | SUNDAY 5/3 BEFORE & AFTER 9:30am WORSHIP

Stopping Fraud

by Andrea Harris

In order to combat a rise in property and mortgage fraud in Lehigh County, the Clerk of Judicial Records has released a new, free alert system for residents of Lehigh County.

The program is called Record Alert and it allows any resident in the county, or anyone with property in Lehigh County, to receive alerts via text or email when a document is recorded involving their property.

The Recorder of Deeds office is required to record any document that is presented to their office when all the required data is properly executed and payment is received alongside the document. Once a fraudulent document is recorded, the fraudster may use your name as collateral on a mortgage or attempt to sell your home to an unsuspecting buyer. There is no way for the Recorder of Deeds office to know that the document is being used for fraudulent purposes without being alerted by the legitimate property owner.

By registering for Record Alert, you will receive alerts when a document is recorded which involves your property. The notification will come via text or email stating the parcel number, instrument number, document type, and the date it was recorded. You can then contact the Recorder of Deeds and inform them of the fraudulent document before the criminal can use your name or property.

This service also allows you to monitor the status of legitimate documents that you've filed with Lehigh County, such as after you finish with a closing, or when you take out or pay off a mortgage.

Residents of Lehigh County can register for this free service at <https://www.landex.com/recordalert/lehigh>

Baseball Anyone?

St. John's Upcoming Outings to Coca-Cola Park

Spring is just around the corner, and that means it's time to get ready for IronPigs baseball! This year, we have two exciting opportunities to head out to the ballpark together. Mark your calendars for these two distinct experiences:

The Memorial Day Weekend Celebration

Sunday, May 24 | First Pitch: 6:30pm

Join us for our annual tradition on the IronPigs Party Porch the night before Memorial Day. For \$40 per person (the same price as last year!), you'll enjoy:

- An outstanding buffet picnic dinner.
- Unlimited soft drinks and water.
- Great seats to watch the IronPigs take on the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
- A spectacular Memorial Day fireworks display following the game.

To secure your spot for the Party Porch, please make your reservations and payment with Tom Moyer.

Mid-Summer "Dollar Dog" Night

Tuesday, August 11 | First Pitch: 6:45pm

If you're looking for a casual night at the park, join us in August! We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand. This is a great budget-friendly option at just \$14.00 per person, which includes your game ticket and a \$2 ballpark credit. Even better, it's Dollar Dog Night, so you can grab hot dogs for just \$1.00 all night long!

We won't be taking reservations or payments for the August game until later this spring, so simply mark your calendars for now.

If you have any questions regarding either outing, please contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or via email at craszler@aol.com

We can't wait to see the St. John's name up on the electronic scoreboard and enjoy some great baseball with all of you!

Men's Breakfast Group



The St. John's Men's Breakfast Group meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant (2027 Hamilton St., Allentown). Our next meeting is April 4 at 8:30am. We would be pleased to have you join us! If you would like to know more, please contact Pastor Steve.

"SaveAround Lehigh Valley" 2026 Books

Savings for a Whole Year

These coupon books contain hundreds of buy one get one free, 50% off, plus many more discount offers, and include a 12-month



Savings App with over 400,000 of additional local and national offers... save on the go. It features the most popular merchants locally.

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

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

An Easy Way to Contribute to St. John's

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 gas discounts 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. 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. Thank you to Karen Stoitsits for tallying the Redner's receipts in February, which amounted to \$5,415.33 and for Redner's sending us a check for \$54.15.

It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping.



Gift Cards

Receipts

Grocery Shopping = Giving Back to St. John's

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

Save your Redner's Tape

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

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

Every receipt counts. Every grocery trip helps.

Reminder: Pastie Sale Pickup

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for our recent Pastie Sale. A total of 96 pasties were sold. Pickup is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, from 6pm to 8pm and on Sunday, April 12, following worship down in Fox Hall. If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email craszler@aol.com

Celebrate Earth Day & Join Our Spring Cleaning Week

Wednesday, April 22

Earth Day invites people around the world to pause, give thanks for this planet, and recommit to caring for the natural resources we all share. For more than 50 years, Earth Day has helped raise awareness and inspire action to protect our air, water, soil, ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

Each year carries a theme. The UCC's theme this year is "A Future with Hope," rooted in Jeremiah 29:11:

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Environmental stewardship has never depended on a single moment or movement. It grows through the steady, everyday choices of communities, educators, workers, innovators, and families who understand that caring for creation is both a responsibility and a lasting investment.

Learn more about Earth Day: www.earthday.org

Ways to take part:

- Community Cleanups – Help remove litter from parks, rivers, and shared spaces
- Advocacy & Organizing – Support efforts that protect environmental policies and engage local leaders
- Education – Encourage "teach-ins" that build environmental awareness
- Ecosystem Restoration – Support reforestation and conservation initiatives

St. John's Spring Cleaning Week

Begins April 24 (All Week Long)

As we celebrate Earth Day, we also turn our attention to caring for our shared church home.

Beginning April 24, St. John's will hold a full week of spring cleaning—an opportunity for everyone to lend a hand. Whether

you can give an hour or a day, your help will make a meaningful difference as we refresh and prepare our spaces for the season ahead.

Together, we give thanks for creation—and take practical steps to care for it, both in our world and in our own community.



Convalescent & Homebound Residents

People who would welcome receiving a greeting card:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Phyllis Ambearle | Sandy Glass | Eleanor O'Donnell |
| Anita Beil | Tracy Glass | Mary Jane Ott |
| Sherry Castello | Lucille Hicks | Helen Ryer |
| Shirley Downing | Geraldine Keim | Bert Smith |
| Jeanne Fischl | Bill Meckes | Leona Snyder |
| Milton Focht | Dale Millham | Nancy Weaver |
| Sally Gibson | Karen Moyer | Bonnie Weikel |

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



God Is Still Speaking!

Verso-Chat — Scripture and Conversation for Today

Wednesdays, 9am and Online Anytime!

At the beginning of Lent, a simple request opened the door to something beautiful: could we record our weekly Verso-Chat gatherings so more people could participate? Since then, our circle has grown — not just in numbers, but in depth. Each week, the conversation continues beyond Wednesday morning as others listen, reflect, and share their own insights and questions.

Our sharing with each other inspires us. What started as a small study has become a living, breathing community of Scripture and conversation.

If you're looking for a meaningful weekly rhythm to stay grounded in God's Word, Verso-Chat offers a welcoming, open-hearted space to explore the upcoming Sunday lectionary readings. This isn't about having all the answers — it's about bringing curiosity, honesty, and a willingness to listen for God's still-speaking voice in our lives today.

Whether you're new to Bible study or simply longing for a more reflective and conversational approach, there's a place for you here. Some join us in person on Wednesday mornings, while others connect later in the week through the recording. However you participate, you are part of the conversation.

As we move through the seasons of the Christian year, these sacred texts invite us into deeper awareness — of hope and light, of compassion and calling, of what it means to live as a community shaped by love. Together, we discover how Scripture continues to guide us in how we live, serve, and grow as followers of Jesus in everyday life.

Everyone is welcome. Join us on Wednesday mornings or request the weekly recording — we're always glad to share the link. And if an evening option would help you connect, let Pastor Steve know. New possibilities are always unfolding.

Come listen. Come wonder. Come discover something new.

Verso-Chat awaits you. <https://bit.ly/VersoChat>



VERSO-CHAT

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

Thursday, April 9 & Sunday, April 12 – Pastie Sale Pickup – 6pm to 8pm
 Thursday & after worship on Sunday in Fox Hall. See Carol.

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

Sunday, May 3 – Basket Social & Bake Sale – 8am to 9:30am and 10:30am
 to 11:30am in Fox Hall. Cost \$5 for 26 tickets. See Amy or Carol.

Sunday, May 24 – IronPigs Party Porch – 6:35pm. \$40 includes ticket to
 game & meal. See Tom for reservations.

Wednesday, June 3 – Bus Trip to See “Joshua” – Leaves St. John’s at 8am &
 returns 6:00-6:30pm. Cost \$150 Includes ticket to Sight & Sound in Lancaster,
 meal at Yoder’s Restaurant, bus & tip for bus driver. See Tom for reservations.

Friday, June 12 – Flag Day Gift Card Bingo – Doors open at 6pm; game
 begin at 7pm. Tricky Tray. 50/50 raffle. Tickets available soon. See Tom.

Sunday, June 21 – Pie Sale – Details in May newsletter. See Amy or Carol.

Tuesday, August 11 – IronPigs Grandstand – 6:45pm. \$14 Includes ticket to
 game & \$2 ballpark credit. “Dollar Dog Night.” See Carol for reservations.

Applebee’s “Burgers for a Cause” – \$10 coupon entitles you to a gourmet
 burger and French fries. Good at any location. No expiration date. See Tom.

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

Redner’s Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. See Karen.

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		

April Birthdays

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

<p>4/1 Dale Millham Rev. Matthew Seeds Kevin Fox</p> <p>4/3 Aiden Hannis</p> <p>4/5 Maya Williams</p> <p>4/6 June McCracken</p> <p>4/7 William Meckes</p> <p>4/8 Karen Moyer</p> <p>4/11 Olivia Weidner Zoe Roth</p> <p>4/12 Maci Dovico</p> <p>4/13 Donna Held Sarah Young Bonnie Weikel James Tretter Sr</p> <p>4/15 Julia Gross</p>	<p>4/16 Ashley Venanzi</p> <p>4/18 Crystal Schwenk</p> <p>4/19 Craig Headman</p> <p>4/20 Leia Stocker</p> <p>4/21 Jacob Clewell</p> <p>4/22 Stephanie Hanzl</p> <p>4/24 Gabriella Ferioli</p> <p>4/25 Geraldine Keim</p> <p>4/26 Rev. Janet Boyd</p> <p>4/28 Michael Kern</p> <p>4/29 Shirley Downing Jacqueline Thomas Carson Strauss Archer Hunsicker</p> <p>4/30 Nicholas Bach</p>
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April Wedding Anniversaries

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

4/8

Rev. John & Charlene Hoff

4/8

James & Patricia Molinaro

4/20

Roger & Lucille Schneck

4/23

Todd & Sandra Heffelfing



Worship, Love and Serve - No Matter What!



“Souper Bowl of Caring”

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” ~ Matthew 25:21

Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to this year’s “Souper Bowl of Caring” campaign. Our goal was to collect 250 cans of soup in January and February, and we are happy to report that we received a total of 312 cans of soup. Ryan Szoke, from this year’s Confirmation Class along with his brother Zach also participated by manning soup pots after worship on Super Bowl Sunday and \$117.70 was collected from the congregation, giving total monetary donations for February amounting to \$417.70. All the soup cans and the monetary contributions were given to the Whitehall Food Pantry.



Whitehall Food Pantry

For the month of April, we are collecting canned corn, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, 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, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, we meet at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Whitehall on the fourth Monday of each month in the morning from 9am to 11am and in the evening from 6pm to 8pm. For more information, contact Gary Black gary.t.black@outlook.com or at (484) 274-2405.

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative’s Community Meals

WCHI and the Faith-Based Community are providing free meals to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on the first Sunday and third 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, 4/5	No Meal – Easter Sunday	-	-
Tuesday, 4/21	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church	4331 Main St., Whitehall	(610) 730-3184
Sunday, 5/3	St. John’s Lutheran Church	835 Third St., Whitehall	(610) 533-1357
Tuesday 5/19	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church	618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall	(610) 266-0695

Update on Other Mission Outreaches

We will continue to receive contributions for One Great Hour of Sharing to the end of March. Simply send your donation into the church office, place it in the offering plate, or give online or by text.

Reminder: Return filled Easter baskets for youth at Pinebrook Family Answers HFW by Sunday, March 29. Contact our member Emma Rarich at (610) 462-6777 or email erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions.

How did St. John’s Family do?

Mission	Feb. 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$ 865.00	\$1,468.00	\$2,108.00	\$2,375.00
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$ 67.99	\$ 352.99	\$ 610.00	\$ 415.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	-
“Souper Bowl of Caring”	\$ 267.70	\$ 427.70	\$ 160.00	\$ 245.00
Christmas Fund	N/A	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	N/A
Mountain Valley Association	\$ 80.00	\$ 95.00	N/A	N/A
TOTALS	\$1,300.69	\$2,503.69	\$4,466.77*	\$3,225.00*

* In 2025 we received contributions for General Disaster Relief (\$180.00) & California Wildfires (\$1,375.00). In 2024 we received contributions for General Disaster Relief (\$10.00), Ukraine Relief (\$110.00) & Middle East Relief (\$70.00). We are not requesting or receiving Funds for these mission outreaches at this time.

Mission Outreach giving for February totaled \$1,300.69 and is now at \$2,503.69 YTD.

Due to weather conditions, on-site church worship services were canceled in early 2026, thus contributing to fewer mission outreach donations.



Support and Sustain

We urge every person to consider your present level of financial support and see where you might be able to share an extra gift this season of Lent and Easter.

One other thing... There are some who have voiced that since St. John's has received the generous estate gift from Adriane Kiesbar last November,

they are decreasing their regular financial support. This hurts St. John's ministry. The estate gifts are NOT being used supplement our operating income. The congregation has approved use of funds toward infrastructure needs (flooring replacement and elevator modernization) which we would have otherwise had to delay until sufficient funds were raised for each project, which would have taken several more years.

The Consistory recommended and the congregation approved putting \$425,000 into our Endowment Fund, which will begin to show increases in our quarterly proceeds withdrawal in 2027. The Church receives 5% of the endowment on a 3 year average of the fund value in June of the previous year. Since the funds were deposited for investment in November 2025, they WILL NOT be included in the 2026 3 year average. In 2027, we will receive the value based on 2024, 2025 and 2026 average (only 1/3 of which will show the increased invested funds). In 2028, we will receive the value based on 2025, 2026 and 2027 average, and so on. It will not be until our 2030 Budget that we will see the full benefit of the invested funds in our quarterly distributions from the endowment. We cannot reduce our operations giving. Ministries are already doing their best to function with limited resources. The primary cost areas are in our staff and in the building operational support. We need EVERY person to do their part to support and sustain our ministry with our shared resources.

When we share the need for "Automatic Contributors," we share how we can weather the ups and downs of participation and presence with consistent giving. For those who are not currently signed up to be an "Automatic Contributor," please prayerfully consider doing so. It's easy, secure, and vital to our operational sustainability.

BUDGET UPDATE

St Johns UCC Fullerton - Statement of Finances

Feb 2026

Income	Electronic	2/1/2026	2/8/2026	2/15/2026	2/22/2026	Total
Offerings for Operating Expenses	\$6,738.19	\$3,140.00	\$2,021.00	\$2,881.00	\$1,492.00	\$16,272.19
Rental Income--Gross	\$1,325.50				\$46.00	\$1,371.50
Fundraising Income--Net of Exp	\$(1,050.75)	\$374.50	\$102.00	\$551.00	\$819.50	\$796.25
Endowment Interest						\$-
Flowers		\$20.00			\$48.00	\$68.00
Faith Formation	\$25.00	\$5.00		\$5.00	\$5.00	\$40.00
Special Gifts						\$-
Total	\$7,037.94	\$3,539.50	\$2,123.00	\$3,437.00	\$2,410.50	\$-

Expense Summary	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pastoral Services	\$11,548.52	\$11,963.98	\$(415.46)
Staff Salaries & Expense	\$9,388.67	\$9,417.97	\$(29.30)
Building Services	\$5,676.57	\$4,181.25	\$1,495.32
Faith Formation	\$52.65	\$104.17	\$(51.52)
Parish Programs	\$3,414.17	\$2,160.42	\$1,253.75
Fundraising Tithe	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total	\$30,080.58	\$27,827.79	\$2,252.79

	Month	Year
Total Income	\$18,547.94	\$43,206.94
Total Expenses	\$30,080.58	\$60,491.03
Net INCOME (LOSS)	\$(11,532.64)	\$(17,284.09)

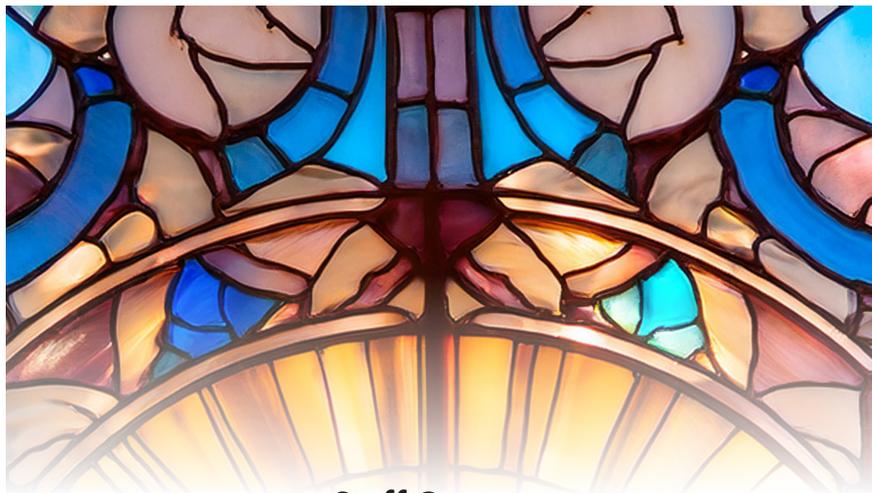
Mission Giving, Feb 2026

Our Churches Wider Mission	\$865.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$20.00
Mountain Valley Assoc	\$80.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$267.70
Whitehall Food Pantry	\$67.99
Total	\$1,300.69

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

Account	Jan-26	Feb-26	Difference
Checking Account	\$64,803.29	\$49,814.95	\$(14,570.64)
Giant Card Funds	\$1,562.00	\$2,062.00	\$500.00
Weis Card Funds	\$367.25	\$1,017.25	\$650.00
sub-total General Fund Assets	\$66,732.54	\$53,311.90	\$(13,420.64)
Restricted/Property Checking	\$33,620.61	\$33,620.61	\$-
Restricted/Property Investments	\$361,334.00	\$362,267.00	\$933.00
sub-total Restricted Assets	\$394,954.61	\$395,887.61	\$933.00
Endowment Fund--Quadrant	\$1,005,560.00	\$1,019,170.00	\$13,610.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,467,247.15	\$1,468,369.51	\$1,122.36
Cornerstone Pavilion Loan	\$(80,806.23)	\$(80,684.17)	\$122.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$(80,806.23)	\$(80,684.17)	\$122.06





Staff Contacts

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Christian Early Learning Center

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

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

Our condolences to
Sharon Antrim
at the passing of her husband,
Bill Antrim
on March 19, 2026
and Kathy Bright
at the passing of her Dad,
Gerald Deutsch
on March 21, 2026