



# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street, Whitehall, PA 18052

January/February 2020



**January & February  
2020  
Vol. 13 Issue 1  
"Our Church  
Connection"**

Office:

610-264-8421

Fax: 610-264-4300

Email:

[stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com)

website:

[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org)

Church Hospital Code: 473

	Page
*Pastor Michelle	2
*Thank You Notes	3-5
*Our Church Family	6-8
*Church News	9-18
*Music Notes	19
*CE & Youth	20
*Mission Moment	21-22
*Healthcare	23
*Worship Schedule	24
*Staff/Consistory	25

"Give Backs"  
**Copperhead Grille**  
January 28<sup>th</sup>

**BJ'S Brewhouse**  
February 25<sup>th</sup>

**Texas Roadhouse**  
March 26<sup>th</sup>

Flyers for all give backs in  
this newsletter

**Mark  
Your  
Calendar**

**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> after  
10:45AM service

**Pastor Michelle Funk's  
Ordination Service**  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00PM

**Annual Meeting**  
February 16<sup>th</sup>  
After 10:45AM service

**Ash N' Dash**  
February 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:30-8:30AM and  
5:00-6:00PM

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
7:00PM

**Gift Card Bingo**  
Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00PM

**St. John's UCC,  
Fullerton  
575 Grape Street,  
Whitehall, PA  
"Our Church  
Connection" newsletter  
is published monthly.**

# Happy New Year, Church!

This is the time of year when we begin to look forward thinking about what the new year will bring. At St. J's, we began 2020 with Epiphany. We were reminded that Christmas isn't over until the Magi, the wise ones, bring their gifts to the Christ Child. At St. J's the gift giving wasn't over! The worshippers randomly selected a star gift.



The star gift was a word. A gift from God for the year ahead.

The word may have been very timely, the receiver knowing immediately the word's meaning in their life. The gift may have been a word that's meaning would become clearer as the year went on. Or the word's meaning may change for the receiver through the year ahead. The worshippers were encouraged to keep their star gift where they could see it every day . . . a constant reminder of the gift received from God through 2020.

On the Friday morning prior to Epiphany I prepared to write out the words. I sat down, pulled up a list of Star words from the internet, grabbed the stars, a pen, and began writing.

It was a Spirit-filled practice. I began writing some of the words on the list. As I was writing, words began popping into my head and I began writing those words instead. I believe the Spirit was breaking through, guiding the writing of the words. I believe the Spirit was indeed present in the distribution of the star gift words as well.

I distinctly remember writing the word "Shelter" that Friday morning. I recall wondering why the Spirit would put that word in my head. Yet, I knew that I had to write it. (even though I couldn't imagine what person would need the word Shelter) . . .and to my surprise my star gift word was... "Shelter". I am not quite sure what meaning "Shelter" will have in my life this coming year, nor why the Spirit chose it for me, yet I am convinced it was the word I was meant to receive.

On St. J's Facebook page many of our members shared their own star gift words and what they thought they meant for this new year. Others requested star gifts be picked for them. Check out our Facebook page to read their comments. If you didn't receive your star gift yet, please ask me to pick one for you, or stop by and select one for yourself.

Whatever your star gift word is, my prayer is that you will spend time with God as you reflect on its meaning throughout the entire year.

Love & Light,  
Michelle



To St. John's UCC, Fullerton,  
Thank you for the Christmas gift and the visit. I enjoyed and appreciated the visit and all the goodies. Your kindness means so very much.

Lucille Hicks



Dear Friends in Christ,

We cannot let the holidays pass without sharing our gratitude for the continued support that you provide for the Whitehall Food Pantry. This is truly a joint mission and as they say, "it takes a village" to provide the food and financial support for our patrons.

The Board of the Whitehall Food Pantry thanks you for your generous support and wishes you a happy holiday and safe winter.

With blessings,  
Judy Ehret for  
The Whitehall Food Pantry



I want to say thank you to everyone that has visited me at *Above and Beyond at the Knights* and all the gifts, prayers and cards.

May God bless everyone at this Holiday Season.

Edith Crews

To the people at St. John's UCC, Fullerton,  
I thank you for the Christmas cards and the goody bag. I am a "Goody" eater. And all the other things in the bags are things I use. And the socks keep my feet warm.  
Thank you to Pastor Dave for the visit. Hope you all have a Happy, Healthy New Year!  
Thanks again,  
Eleanor Smith

Dear Friends of St. John's,

I want to thank you all for sending me the many things that were in the goody bag for Christmas.

They were all items that were very useful to me. I also want to thank you for all the Christmas cards you sent me.

I hope you all have a Happy New Year and the most merriest Christmas.

May God Bless You all,  
Sandra Diefenderfer

Many thanks to KidZJAM & Youth, teachers, helpers and especially, directors, Kathy Nelson & Karen Stoitsits, for the joyous Christmas pageant presented on Sunday, December 22 at 10:45am service.  
Much laughter and song brought congregation and presenters together at this special Christmas time.  
Nancy Bowman



Thank You Pastors Dave and Cliff for your visits while I was in the hospital and thank you to the congregation for your prayers!

Diana Beck

THANK YOU



Thank you to all who helped to make this Advent and Christmas season come alive at St. John's! Thanks to all who helped with our Advent Services, Advent-in-a-bag, Advent Bible Studies, "Let it Go" worship service, Christmas Pageant, Live Nativity and our Christmas Eve Services. We celebrated and remembered the birth of the Christ Child in so many wonderful and diverse ways! What great ministry!

Also, thank you to all the little elves that left packages in my mailbox, on my desk, or at the office door. Some didn't have names and so to all the little "Santas" out there, I wanted to say Thank you for thinking of me!

One more thank you... thank you to everyone that kept me in prayer during the past couple weeks and beyond as I have been working toward answering God's call into ordained ministry. No matter the outcome, I feel blessed to have walked this journey while serving St. John's. I appreciate all your cards, messages, emails, and words of encouragement leading up to the January 11th Ecclesiastical Council!

To the entire congregation.... Thank you for your support, love, and encouragement as I continue to follow God's path. It is a pleasure to serve God and minister alongside so many wonderful individuals. God is so very Good! May your Christmas Cheer continue throughout the year!

Love & Light,  
Michelle



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of socks to the Sixth Street Shelter. We sincerely appreciate the partnership of friends like you as we help families improve their stability, self-sufficiency, resilience and quality of life. The Sixth Street Shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness for over 30 years.

Residents at the Sixth Street Shelter learn how to solve their own problems and to take advantage of opportunities for personal growth. They develop and actively work toward long-term housing, employment, and educational goals during their stay.

Thank you again for your gift to the Sixth Street Shelter. You are an important part of our work, and we are truly grateful for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Blasco, Director  
Sixth Street Shelter

We would like to say 'thank you' to Pastor Quinn, Mary Jane Ott and Betty Millham for visiting us last month and bringing such a large bag of goodies! What a pleasant surprise and how good it was to see them and hear all the good news back home. We sure enjoyed the treats, the colorful socks, tissue and so many other items. We also appreciate the many cards we get and want to say how much we miss being there. Happy New year to everyone.

Your Friends,  
Marie Fatzinger and Peggy Snyder

A big thank you to everyone who came out to help with the Potato Filling. Without your wonderful help, we never would have gotten done in the time we did. A special thank you goes to all who donated items. Also a really big thank you to Karen Stoitsits and Sally Gibson for coming out of retirement to help me.

Ruthann Hallman



Dear St. John's UCC, Fullerton

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,788.00 and \$262.00 to the Valley Over the Edge fundraiser. Every day we are deeply grateful for donors like you who enable us to provide a path of hope for people who are struggling. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity!

Abigail Goldfarb  
Director of Administration  
The Lehigh Conference of Churches

To St. John's UCC, Fullerton

On behalf of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, thank you for your recent committed contribution of \$117.20 to support our neighbors who are in need. With you, we can carry out the work of God well beyond the church walls, providing housing, hope and healing to those who need it most.

The Conference of Churches is most grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing and deepening or partnership in ministry.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Genie Watson, Ecumenical Associate



# Our Church Family



## Change of Address

**Susan Bartholomew**

220 E. Lawn Rd., Ste 10  
Nazareth, PA 18064-1100

**Carole Flores**

1837 Ruth St., Rear  
Allentown, PA 18104-1531

**Louise Hoch**

1873 Whitehall Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18104-1141

**Michael Kern**

1006 Valley Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302-2029

**Todd Kresge**

2149 Catasaquua Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18018-1245

**Elaine Lentz**

2174 Four Seasons Blvd.  
Macungie, PA 18062-8013

**Brent Nailor**

889 Candlestar Loop N.  
Fountain, CO 80817-4197

**Lori Stocker**

1209 Zorba Drive, Apt. 2  
Whitehall, PA 18052-6129

**Bonnie Weikel**

1034 Fernhill Lane  
Whitehall, PA 18052-7807

**Carol Wuchter**

12206 Mallard Bay Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37922-9361



NOTE!  
ADDRESS CHANGE

## Hospital Admission Policies

When being admitted to an area hospital please inform them your church code is 473.

Please have a member of your family also call and let us know you have been hospitalized.



Susan, our Office Administrator calls the hospitals daily but sometimes is not told of a member's admittance. We want to visit and pray for all of our members. Help us to know when you need us! Call the church and pastor.

*Hospital Code for  
our church - 473*

## Wedding

On December 28<sup>th</sup> Rev. Matthew Seeds and Dr. Nathan Steiner were married at St. John's. We wish them every happiness!



## New Member's Group Forming

If you would like to join the St. John's family please speak with Pastors Michelle Funk or Cliff Herring or Colleen Kulhamer, Consistory President.

## January Anniversaries

January 27 – Shelby & Brent Nailor – 8 years

January 30 – Doris & Ronald Smith – 49 years



## February Anniversaries

February 10 – Cynthia & Edward Sommer – 47 years

February 21 – Judith & Barrie Carr – 39

February 24 – Cynthia & Michael Bundra - 19 years



## Congratulations!

**Audra Sommer**, a clarinet player for the Whitehall-Coplay Middle School band, was one of 4 WCMS band members nominated and selected to represent the school in the PMEA District 10 Elementary Band Festival on January 10.

## Baptisms

**Gabrianna Marie Thompson** was baptized on December 8<sup>th</sup>. She is the daughter of Melanie Bayer and Eric Thompson. She has an older sister, Kasey.

**Malachi Michael Madaus** was baptized on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. He is the son of Shawna and Garrett Madaus. Malachi has an older sister, Bailey. His grandparents are Gary and Tina Madaus.

## Thanks to those who served on Consistory

*Their Three-Year Term  
Ended in 2019*

Elder – Robert Dougherty

Deacons: Sharon Czekner,  
Wendy Fox, Paul Raszler

Youth Deacon: Eireann Hunsicker

## Deaths

**June Pope** died December 4<sup>th</sup>. Her service was private. She is survived by a son Ronald, and daughters, Patti and Kathy, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Bill Miller** died January 9<sup>th</sup>. His Celebration of Life service was held on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill was the father of Cynthia, Virginia, William and Patricia.

**Craig Merkel** died January 13<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated his life on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Craig is survived by daughters, Jessie and Stephanie and son Craig, Jr. and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Upcoming Baptisms

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rowan Rarich-Lord

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Raylynn Mae Morris

## Bob Bold Retires from Parkland School Board

After half a century in education, Robert Bold retired this month from the unpaid post he held for the last 20 years on the Parkland School Board. Bob began his career in education in 1967 as a teacher at what was then Harrison-Morton Junior High in Allentown and later moved to Allen High School, where he taught industrial arts — or what was then called “shop” — for most of his career. He retired in 1997, did some substitute teaching and joined the Parkland School Board in 1999.

Over the last two decades, Bold served as board president five times and vice president three times and as president of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit since 2009. He is credited with advocating for the creation of the Parkland Education Foundation, which since 2011 has raised more than \$1 million for special projects and needs in the district’s schools. In 2018, the Parkland teachers union gave him its first Friend of Education Award for his advocacy for children, education and educators.

This text is part of an article printed in the Morning Call. You can find the entire article online: <https://tinyurl.com/Boldretires>



Check out our website!

[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org)

## Newsletter Deadline

The articles for the March newsletter are due February 9<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter will be collated on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

## In Case of Bad Weather

If the church has to cancel its Sunday services due to inclement weather, we will list the closing on Channel 69 news or you can go to their website at [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com)



## 2019 Contribution Statements

Your 2019 Contribution statements are available. They are located on the table in the back of the church.

If you want your statement mailed to your house, please call the Church office. (610-264-8421)

## Save The Date!

Annual St. John’s Party Porch night at the IronPigs will be on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Baseball, food, soft drinks, and fireworks at the same price as before. Make reservations and payment of \$37 per ticket to Tom Moyer.





# Church News

## February 16<sup>th</sup> - St. John's Annual Meeting: 2019 in Review

The Annual meeting is on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> following the 10:45 a.m. service. We will be having our usual covered dish (so bring something yummy!) and going through highlights from our annual reports.

Please mark your calendars. Everyone is invited but only members can vote.



## Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> : Healthy Living, Healthy Faith

The Health Committee of St. John's is sponsoring Healthy Living, Healthy Faith Sunday on February 9. Not only will the Sunday sermon have this theme, but after both worship services you are invited to go to Fox Hall where healthy foods will be served. You will also have the opportunity to indicate your interest in participating in a bereavement group, or in gathering on occasion to take a walk together, or in establishing a Bible Study. We encourage you to join us and consider ways to "get healthy" both physically as well as spiritually.

## The Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant in Allentown. We would be pleased to have you join us. Next meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30AM.



## Souperbowl of Caring Lunch!

### Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:45am Worship Service

Join us for a Soup luncheon to benefit "Souperbowl of Caring" Warm up with a nice bowl of soup and enjoy fellowship & fun with us! The Faith Formation and Youth Groups will be collecting a free will offering after each worship service and there will be a donation basket at the luncheon.

### Love to COOK soup?

*We are looking for soup donations for the luncheon on Sunday, February 2nd.*

*If you are interested please call or email Pastor Michelle,*

*[sjuccyouth@gmail.com](mailto:sjuccyouth@gmail.com) or 610-264-8421*

## Ash N Dash . . . February 26<sup>th</sup>

**7:30-8:30AM and 5:00-6:00PM**

On Ash Wednesday we will again offer Ash & Dash. It is our 3rd year offering this alternative to traditional Ash Wednesday worship and has been well received. We've had a lot of people participate and share their positive experiences with us. Pastors Michelle & Cliff will be in the parking lot ready to pray with people and offer them ashes. The ashes on a forehead is the marking of a Christian who is beginning the season of Lent. Some people are not able to attend an Ash Wednesday service and so we are hoping they will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

## Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00PM

**February 26th**

Our traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 26th. It will feature prayers, ashes and Holy Communion. Our choir will bless us with their great music. We hope you will begin the Lenten journey with us at this moving service.



## Holy Communion Sign In Book!

The book is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. You are asked to sign it if you participated in the sacrament. You need only sign it **ONE TIME PER YEAR**. The book will be alphabetical according to your last name.

Please participate often in the sacrament and make sure you sign the book at least one time during 2020.

## St. John's UCC, Fullerton Mission Statement

St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton provides a welcoming and safe place for all people to worship God, grow in faith and fellowship, and serve others and God by following the example of Jesus Christ. We believe all persons are created in God's image and are loved, valued, and blessed equally by God. This community of faith is an open and accepting congregation who seeks to welcome, without judgment, all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances.

Everyone is invited to fully share and participate in the life, ministry, and joys of our church family.



© Can Stock Photo

# Congratulations Pastor Michelle!!!

On Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd UCC in Slatedale approximately 79 people, 54 of which were from St. John's, all gathered to hear Pastor Michelle deliver her Ecclesiastical sermon to the PNEC council.

Her service was filled with her sermon on the woman at the well, some wonderful music directed by Gregg Fisher and his guitar, scripture read by Nancy Bowman and a beautiful liturgical dance by our very own Maya Williams. The service was beautiful in every way. At the end of the service Pastor Michelle was required to answer questions from anyone in attendance, on different scenarios that might arise while she is a pastor.

It is my complete honor to report that Pastor Michelle has been ECCLESIASTISIZED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE by her Ecclesiastical council and was approved for ordination pending call, which has been re-affirmed by the Consistory.



Congratulations Pastor Michelle for your hard work and a job well done!

*Pastor Michelle's ordination is scheduled to be at St. John's on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00PM.*

Colleen Kulhamer, Consistory President



## Our Interim Pastor



We have received the signed covenant contract from our future Interim Pastor, Bonnie Moore. Her start date will be Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be in communication with us during the next few months until her arrival to help us prepare for our search for a full-time pastor. God is at work in St. John's and God's Spirit is guiding us.



## Easter and Spring Crafts are Coming!

The Crafters Group will have Easter and Spring decorations and other craft items for sale on **Sundays, March 8 and March 15**. Come to the lounge area before and after worship to make your purchases. In the meantime, if you need a specific item, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572. Remember, our crafts are for sale all year long.



# Pastoral Transition

As we await the arrival of our Interim Senior Pastor, our Personnel committee and Consistory have hired a part time Bridge Associate Pastor, Rev. Cliff Herring. We are excited to welcome Cliff to the pastoral team! Cliff is a retired pastor and member of St. John's. Please check out his welcome article located in this newsletter.

Here is how the pastoral roles have changed for the few months until our Interim Senior Pastor begins at which time Pastor Cliff will leave the staff and Pastors Michelle and Dave will go back to their regular ministerial duties.

- ◆ Pastor Michelle will continue as Acting Lead Pastor - \*Full time  
Her responsibilities include: Head of Staff, Primary Worship Leader/Planner - focus on creative/blended worship, preaching 2X/month, Sacraments & Rites, Consistory Retreat, new member sessions as needed, oversee current ministerial responsibilities, delegating to others as necessary  
  
Committees: CE, Youth Ministry, CELC Board Meetings, Staff Meetings, Elders & Consistory, Music & Worship, STARS, Stewardship & Finance, Personnel, Interior and Church Usage
  
- ◆ Pastor Dave will continue as Visitation Pastor - \*Part time  
His responsibilities include: all emergencies M-F, hospital visits, & Primary Funeral Pastor, along with current responsibilities  
  
Committees: Visitation Committee, Staff Meetings, Elders & Consistory (as able/desired)
  
- ◆ Pastor Cliff will be our Bridge Associate Pastor - \*Part time  
His responsibilities include: Worship leadership, preaching 2x/month, deliver children's messages on rotating basis, share in Sacraments & Rites as needed, weekend on call, Friday office hours (Pastor Michelle's day off) help with pastoral care/funerals as needed by Visitation Pastor, develop new Bible study or Sr. lunch fellowship program, extra duties as requested  
  
Committees: FunRaising, Healthcare, Mission, Evangelism, Staff Meetings, Consistory (as desired/able)

If you have any questions about the pastoral team's responsibilities, please feel free to speak with Pastor Michelle, Colleen Kulhamer, Consistory President or Connie Viglione, Personnel Chair.



## Meet Our Bridge Associate Pastor

I am the Rev. Cliff Herring, who will be serving as a Bridge Associate Pastor at St. John's until the interim arrives in the spring. My position is simply to help Pastors Michelle and David by staffing some committees, preaching every other week, and helping in any other ways as needed. I plan to be in the church office on Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

I am a retired UCC Pastor who has served in the Penn Northeast Conference for my entire career. Before I retired I was the Pastor at St. John's UCC (Howertown) just outside of Northampton. Since retirement, I have served at Bethel UCC, Slatington; Emmanuel UCC, Allentown; and Salem UCC, Pocono Pines among others. Many people know me through my hobby which is riding roller coasters. I belong to ACE (American Coaster Enthusiasts) which is a club of over 7,000 people who enjoy this hobby. I have travelled extensively to visit amusement parks throughout the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

I am thrilled to be serving at St. John's and look forward to meeting many of you as we walk through this time of transition together.



## Now is the time to plan for 2020 Tax Return!!

### Have an IRA? Now, or soon to be over 70 ½?

Have you ever thought you would like to increase giving to St. John's, but could not fit it into your budget? While most of us are still struggling with 2019 tax returns, it may be helpful to start planning for **2020** returns.

While everyone should do this planning, it is especially true for individuals over 70 ½ who must take a "Required Minimum Distribution" from an IRA account. With proper planning, directing some of this RMD to the church can be beneficial to you personally, as well as to St. John's. It can be a way of increasing contributions while, at the same time, not costing anything additional.

There is logic behind this: For anyone who is not able to itemize deductions under the new tax law there would be no credit for contributions. One alternative is to make contributions directly from a 401k to St. John's. By doing so, reportable and taxable income from the IRA is reduced—hence the tax savings.

Consider, for example, contributing \$2,000 as a direct payment from the financial institution to the church. (It would not have to be lump-sum. Any timeline or increment of contributions could be chosen.) Envelope contributions of this \$2,000 may not be tax deductible if thresholds for itemizing are not met. On the other hand, a direct IRA distribution would reduce reportable income by that amount and could result in a \$500 tax savings (assuming a 25% tax bracket).

Therefore, these "savings" can be used to increase donations to the church with a net, "no cost" to you. While this may not work for everyone, prudent financial planning requires that one look at all options. And, this is one that may be worth considering.

For additional information, you may contact Tom Moyer or John Viglione. But, as with any such decisions, it is always recommended that these be made with the advice of a financial advisor.



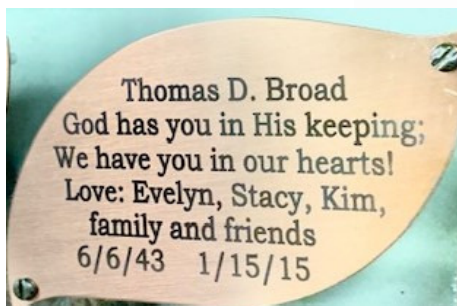
## Church Envelopes – Furnace Fund

This past year St. John's was faced with a financial dilemma. There was an urgent need to replace our heating system with a bid of just under \$60,000 – but there were no funds to address this issue.

Stewardship and Finance deliberated the issue and decided that, since the Capital Campaign funding envelopes were ending 2020, a substitute titled Furnace Fund would be created. This is not a pledge situation, but rather a request that members consider contributing to replenish the funds take from the Capital Campaign.

This funding method of borrowing from ourselves, saves the significant interest that would have accrued from that size of a loan. While it will delay some of the work envisioned by the Capital Campaign, there is confidence that this will only be a temporary delay.

When you notice the envelope mailings that you receive, please note the red-bordered envelope that appears once a month and help to replenish funds needed to fulfill our Capital Campaign goals.



## Endowment-Legacy Tree Update

This past fall, a new leaf was added to our Legacy Tree which is located in the church parlor. It is in memory of long-time member, Thomas Broad, and represents the family's contribution to our Endowment Fund.

Over the years, this fund has generated significant income from its balance of over \$400,000. The legal document which governs the fund's use dictates that contributions can never be spent. (Only a percentage of annual income can be withdrawn and these proceeds have been used to help finance the operations of the church.) To date, well over \$100,000 has been applied to our budget from this fund. It remains a goal that this fund balance would reach \$500,000.

Endowment contributions provide an opportunity for members to honor or memorialize a family member. As you look to those special occasions, consider joining the ranks of those who have done so.



## Pastie Sale is Back! Order your frozen pasties now

Pasties are available in 12 oz. beef, chicken, sausage, ham, vegetable melt and spinach melt at a cost of \$5.50 each. Fruit pasties are available in 6 oz. apple, cherry and blueberry at a cost of \$3.50.

Order sheets are available in the coat room. Payment is required at the time of the order. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or given to Cheryl Weaver. **Order deadline is Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Pickup will be Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in Fox Hall or after both services on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Weaver 610-443-0161.

## Soups are Great “Comfort Foods”!



We’re trying something new but on a limited basis! **Ham and String Bean Soup is being made on Friday, February 21.** The soup makers were recently given a donated ham and are venturing into a new soup. The sale will be on a first come, first served basis (one pot will be made) and pickup will only be on Sunday, February 23. Cost is \$7.00 a quart. **Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or see her before or after worship if you are interested in making a purchase.**

**Beef Vegetable Soup is being made on Friday, March 20.** Cost is \$7.00 a quart. Anyone willing to help or learn is welcome to come starting at 8:00 a.m. **A sign-up sheet for orders is in the coatroom area off the sanctuary or you can contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572.** Pickup times are that Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. down in Fox Hall or in the lounge after each worship service on Sunday, March 22. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 8.**

Mark your calendar: **Turkey Pot Pie will be made on Friday, May 15.**



## We Dare You!! Looking for Volunteers for “Valley Over the Edge”



Do you have a taste for adventure and a passion for doing good? Then on **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>,** you can become part of the Lehigh Conference of Churches’ third annual “**Valley Over the Edge,**” an exciting adrenaline-pumping charitable event. **All it takes to secure your spot to rappel 13 stories down the Five City Center building in downtown Allentown is the ability to raise \$500 and the courage to go over the edge!** LCC’s goal is to raise \$100,000. Proceeds from this event benefit the most vulnerable in the Lehigh Valley—the hungry and the homeless. The Mission Committee, with the help from the congregation, would like to sponsor any adventurous member who is willing to perform this amazing feat. If you remember, Pastor Dave Quinn did it last year. Will he do it again this year? Or do we have someone else willing to participate? **If you are interested or would like more information about this event, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at crazler@aol.com.**



## Alley Parking

Please follow the parking time limit sign in our alley. We have many little ones that are dropped off and picked up from our Christian Early Learning Center and Valley Youth House Respite. Your help in ensuring our 10 minute “drop off” spots are left open for their use is much appreciated!



## Lady PEEPS Invites You!

Come to Our “♥Valen--TEEN Party♥”

On **Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Lady PEEPS Women’s Group will be meeting in Fox Hall as we welcome some of our older teenage girls. It’ll be a time for us to get to know each other better and share an evening of laughter and fun. We’ll play a few fun games along with some surprises. **A meal will be served.**



### Phantoms vs. Bridgeport Sound Tigers Hockey Game Sunday, March 8, at 3:00 p.m.

St. John’s has reserved a block of 30 seats in Section 120, Rows 11, 12 & 13 at the PPL Center, 701 Hamilton St. in Allentown. The cost is **\$23.00** per person and payment must be made at the time of your ticket order (checks payable to St. John’s UCC, Fullerton). See **Carole Flores** before or after worship in the lounge area for tickets and to complete the sign-up sheet. She can also be reached at 610-770-0472 or emailed at [mistycbear1263@gmail.com](mailto:mistycbear1263@gmail.com).



**Deadline is Sunday, January 26.**

## Egg Hunt!

*Saturday,  
April 4th 10:00 am!*



## Gift Card Bingo

Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM  
(Doors open at 6:00PM)

Tickets will be available very soon. Cost of tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door.



## “Give-Back Nights”

★Join us on **Tuesday, January 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Copperhead Grille located at 1731 Airport Rd. in Allentown.** From your dinner receipt, the restaurant will donate 15% of the proceeds back to St. John’s. A flyer is required.

★Join us on **Tuesday, February 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at BJ’s Brewhouse located at 665 N. Krocks Rd., in Allentown.** From your dinner receipt, 20% will be donated back to St. John’s. A flyer is required.

★Join us on **Thursday, March 26, from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Texas Roadhouse located at 6268 Hamilton Blvd. in Trexlertown.** From your dinner receipt, 10% will be donated back to St. John’s. **An additional 20% off on a meal for military, veterans, fire, police, EMT, paramedics, doctors, nurses, teachers with proof of ID.** A flyer is required.

**Flyers can be found in this newsletter, upcoming bulletins, and in the lounge.**



**DINE to DONATE**

Where Champions are Fed  
**COPPERHEAD GRILLE**

1731 AIRPORT RD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18109  
610.403.4600 COPPERHEADGRILLE.COM

Present this flyer when you dine in or take out &  
15% of your food and beverage\* purchase will be donated to

**ST. JOHN'S UCC FULLERTON**  
**TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020 from 5-9 PM**

\*Excludes discounted items.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FLYER AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY & CO-WORKERS.  
FLYERS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED AT COPPERHEAD GRILLE OR ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES.



— JOIN US FOR —  
**A DELICIOUS WAY TO  
 RAISE MONEY!**

**Date:** February 25, 2020 - Tuesday      **Time:** 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM

**At this BJ's location:**

665 N K Rocks Rd.  
 Allentown, PA 18106  
 484-268-2340

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family  
 and friends while earning funds in support of:

**St. John's U.C.C., Fullerton**

With each flyer presented during this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**, BJ's will donate  
**20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES** to the designated organization!

Valid for dine in or take out. Not valid toward alcoholic beverages or happy hour specials. Please don't  
 distribute flyers on-site during the event. Digital or printed flyer must be presented in full view.



F E B 6 7 2



**DINE TO DONATE!  
 FUNDRAISING NIGHT**



Support St. John's UCC, Fullerton by  
 presenting this flyer at the  
 Trexlerstown location (6268 Hamilton  
 Blvd) and Texas Roadhouse will  
 donate 10%\* of your total food  
 purchases to St. John's UCC,  
 Fullerton!

*Support*  
**St. John's UCC-  
 Fullerton!**

**10%  
 DONATION NIGHT**

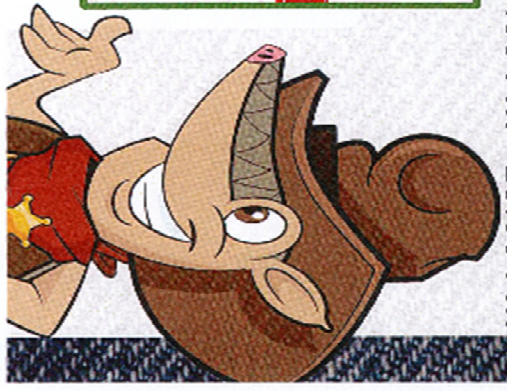
**March 26, 2020  
 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

**THANK YOU  
 THURSDAY**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ACTIVE MILITARY · VETERANS  
 FIRE · POLICE · EMT · PARAMEDICS  
 DOCTORS · NURSES · TEACHERS

**ENJOY 20% OFF**  
 WITH PROOF OF ID



\*Offer excludes tax, gratuity, discounts, and alcohol sales.

# January/February Music Notes

## ENTHUSIASM!

That is the star word that I got. I must admit I am more of a quiet and reserved person. But, look out! I am going to be filled with **enthusiasm** this Epiphany season and try to continue with that word of enthusiasm throughout the year.

The organ music I play as prelude, offertory, and postlude reflect the theme of a particular Sunday. Some of the music is loud and joyful, and some is more meditative and has a feeling of quiet joy.

Choir anthems are chosen with specific themes. The Jubilation and Handbell Choirs will be doing anthems dealing with creation and light this Epiphany season. The Chancel Choir will be singing about light, discipleship, peace, and joy.

How can you, the congregation, help with my enthusiasm? By joyfully singing the hymns. Don't be shy. Sing out with enthusiasm and let the Spirit move you. I am reminded of a funeral service I played at another church about a year ago. Most people in attendance were age 70 plus. These people sang with their hearts. Their voices were strong, but a bit off key as they sang to remember their loved one and friend. Their singing brought tears to my eyes as their voices soared upward and they sang with enthusiasm. It was a beautiful moment for me.

It is with enthusiasm that I write this article and hope that you, too, can experience worship with enthusiasm as you hear the organ music and listen to the choir music and sing the hymns.

Musically,

*Gail*



## It's Not Too Late!

We still have several bags remaining of **Pecan Halves, Whole Cashews, Tropical Fruit Blend, Mixed Chocolate Cranberries, and Heart Healthy Nut Mix** for **\$11.00**. Sorry, our Deluxe Mixed nuts have sold out. If you would like to make a purchase, please see **Carol Raszler** before or after worship. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.



# Christian Education & Youth

## KidZ Teach Sunday, February 16th 9:30AM

Parents and relatives are encouraged to join



## PNEC Annual Youth Retreat

**“#REALTALK... Sexuality and our Faith”**

**May 15th-17th at Spruce Lake!**

All teens 7th - 12th grade encouraged to attend! \$50 deposit extended and is due no later than January 31st. The balance of the \$135 fee will be partially subsidized by the Youth Group Fundraising Fund (\$50) Participants will need to remit the \$35 balance by no later than February 15th.

Forms available in the youth room (Room 305) Deposit and Fees are mailed in directly to the conference office. Please let Pastor Michelle know when you have mailed in your registration. **THIS IS A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE EVENT LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE. PLEASE GET YOUR REGISTRATIONS IN EARLY!**



## Advent-in-a-bag

We enjoyed making our “Advent-in-a-bag” kits at our family Advent Kick Off! We hope you enjoyed using them over the Advent season. Please let your teacher or Pastor Michelle know about your experiences!



## “The Real Story... A Christmas Comedy”

Thank you to everyone that participated in or helped with this year’s KidZ JAM and youth Christmas Pageant! The Christmas Spirit Filled the sanctuary! A special thank you to our directors, Kathy Nelson and Karen Stoitsits!!!



## Mission Moment!

### Church World Service Hygiene Kits



Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. **When disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, or wildfires strike, CWS works with partners on the scene to provide shelter, food and water, blankets, recovery kits, counseling** – the basics needed to ensure the survival of individuals and communities at risk. CWS's mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice through collaborations with partners here in the United States and around the world.

**During the month of February, we will be collecting items for CWS's Hygiene Kits.**

**Our goal is to provide 25 kits. You can help by donating the following needed items:**

- ◆ Hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32"  
(no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- ◆ Bath size (**only**) bar of soap in wrapper
- ◆ Wash cloth
- ◆ Finger nail or toe nail clipper
- ◆ Toothbrush in the package
- ◆ Standard-size band-aids

**There will be a display table in the lounge area by the sanctuary for you to make your selection of what you will donate. Take the paper that lists the item you wish to buy. If donating more than one of the same item, be sure to take that number of papers. All donations can be placed in the container found in the coatroom off the sanctuary. Deadline to receive items is March 1.**

### Whitehall Food Pantry

Closing out the month of **January**, donations are needed for the following: **hot chocolate, hot cereal, instant potatoes, and all kinds of pasta.** For the month of **February**, donations are needed for the following: **spaghetti sauce, any kind of soup, Hamburger Helper, pasta, cereal, canned fruits, and canned vegetables.** A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom off the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Any other non-perishable food items or monetary donations can always be made at any time throughout the year.

### Jubilee Breakfast Ministry

The next two times to prepare a meal for the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry are **Thursdays, January 30 and February 27, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at Zion's UCC located at 620 W. Hamilton St. in Allentown.** This ministry is to provide breakfasts for the homeless, working poor, or anyone in need of food. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please contact Nancy Dougherty at 610-760-8361 or email her at [nancydough@msn.com](mailto:nancydough@msn.com).

## Mission Moment - Continued

### Update on Other Mission Outreaches:

✝ **Ornament & Mitten Tree Project** – Thank you to all our St. John’s Santas for purchasing Christmas gifts for those listed on our Ornament & Mitten Tree. We are pleased to report the following:

♡ **Phoebe Ministries** (senior citizens) – **30** individuals received a gift.

♡ **Valley Youth House** (homeless young people) – **42** individuals received a gift.

♡ **Whitehall-Coplay School District & Sixth Street Shelter** – a total of **127** mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves were collected and distributed. Thank you also to St. John’s Girl Scout Troop #6038 who also donated towards the mitten drive.

**Your generosity offered hope and a bright Christmas to those in need.**

✝ **The Christmas Fund** – This fund is a special ministry of the Pension Boards of UCC National, which provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. It includes pension and health premium supplementation, emergency grants and assistance, and Christmas “thank-you” gift checks. **A special offering was taken in December and currently we have received \$699.28.** Thank you to everyone who participated.

### How did our St. John’s Family do?

Recent Outreaches	November	December	Year-to-Date
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$1,631.77	\$1,709.94	\$19,270.37 Final
The Christmas Fund	N/A	\$ 699.28	\$ 719.28
Whitehall Food Bank	-0-	\$ 155.00	\$ 2,043.00 Final

**The Mission Committee wishes to thank our St. John’s Family for your generous contributions towards Mission Outreach Programs in 2019.**

Those who served on the Mission Committee for 2019 were: Bob Dougherty (chairperson), Nancy Dougherty, Marion DeMilio, Kim Hillegass, Jean McGonigle, Bill Meckes, Carol Raszler (secretary), Connie Viglione, and the Pastors.

# Healthcare Ministry

Medical marijuana vs. recreational marijuana: What is the difference?

Recreational marijuana is any form of marijuana that is used without medical justification. There are currently 11 states and Washington, D.C. where the use of recreational marijuana is legal. Recreational marijuana strains are typically more THC-dominant. THC produces psychoactive effects and the “high” associated with marijuana. In the states where recreational marijuana is legal, anyone over 21 can buy recreational marijuana from a dispensary with a valid photo ID.

While derived from the same plant and fundamentally the same, medical marijuana and recreational marijuana often elicit different effects due to the type of products that are manufactured and sold to the two consumer bases. The strains of marijuana sold in medical dispensaries are typically richer in cannabidiol (CBD). CBD-dominant strains do not elicit the psychoactive effects associated with THC and are more common among medical marijuana patients. To receive a recommendation, patients must have a qualifying medical condition. Some examples of qualifying conditions so far are ALS, Cancer, Crohn’s disease, Epilepsy, Glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, PTSD, Anxiety, Depression, Migraines and Chronic nonmalignant pain. These qualifications do vary between states. Medical marijuana patients receive an official ID card that they must have to purchase their marijuana products. Medical marijuana is legal in 33 states in the US.

Research is still needed and ongoing to verify Marijuana’s effectiveness on medical conditions. The FDA, the US agency that regulates medicines, hasn’t approved the plant as a treatment for any conditions. It did approve a manmade cannabinoid medicine for nausea due to chemotherapy and for severe epilepsy. However, many people do claim to find relief of some symptoms through using marijuana. To take medical marijuana, you can smoke it, inhale it from a vaporizer, eat it (in a brownie or lollipop), apply it to your skin, or place a few drops under your tongue.

Some side effects of medical marijuana that have been reported are bloodshot eyes, depression, dizziness, fast heartbeat, hallucinations and/or low blood pressure. The drug can also affect judgment and coordination, which could lead to accidents or injuries. Marijuana contains some of the same chemicals found in tobacco so there are concerns that smoking it can harm the lungs. The higher the level of THC in a marijuana product and the more it is used could lead to dependency.

Most importantly, be careful where you buy your marijuana. If you buy it illegally, on the street, you don’t know for sure what you are getting. It could be mixed with more powerful drugs or ingredients that could result in harm or death. Secondly, medical marijuana dispensaries, although more reliable can still vary in the quality and purity of their products, so proceed with caution. Several studies done in CA and WA states showed that the amount of marijuana that was supposed to be in brownies sold to patients was far less than what was advertised. If you have a medical condition that warrants giving marijuana a try, talk to your doctor to get their advice and possible recommendation.

Written by Diane Buss

Healthcare Committee-information taken from internet.

# January and February 8:15AM and 10:45AM

## January 26<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday After the Epiphany

**Hymns:** \*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness \*When, like the Woman at the Well \*Crashing Water at Creation

**8:15AM** Scripture Reader: Tracey Glass STARs Tech: Tom Moyer Acolyte: Jared Holderman-Adams

**10:45AM** Scripture Reader: Kim Hillegass STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts Acolyte: Zoey Gedroic

## February 2<sup>nd</sup> Matthew 5:1-12 Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

**Hymns:** \*Rejoice in God's Saints \*When the Poor Ones \*Lord, I Want to be a Christian

### **8:15AM**

Scripture Reader: LeDonne Volz Wagstaff STARs Tech: Joe Trippett Acolyte: Carter Troxell

### **10:45AM**

STARs Tech: Jesus Pagan Acolyte: Ethan Brobst Children's Message: Pastor Cliff

## February 9<sup>th</sup> Healthy Living, Healthy Faith Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

**Hymns:** \*There is a Balm in Gilead \*Jesus, Lover of My Soul \*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

### **8:15AM**

Ushers: Gail Green, William Hoffman Scripture Reader: Janet Ebert

STARs Tech: Susan Rarich Acolyte: Andrew Deutsch

### **10:45AM**

Ushers: Frank Reichl, Natalie Reichl, Diana Beck, Wayne Lichtenwalner Scripture Reader: Michael Baatz

STARs Tech: Jesus Pagan Acolyte: Archer Hunsicker Children's Message: Sharon Czekner

## February 16<sup>th</sup> Matthew 5:21-37 Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

**Hymns:** \*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart \*O God of Love, O God of Peace

\*Christ for the World! We Sing

### **8:15AM**

Scripture Reader: Connie Viglione STARs Tech: Joe Trippett Acolyte: Zoe Roth

### **10:45AM**

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner, Michael Baatz Scripture Reader: Nancy Bowman

STARs Tech: Don Schneck Acolyte: Emily Dimmick Children's Message: Pastor Cliff

## February 23<sup>rd</sup> Transfiguration Sunday

**Hymns:** \*When morning Gilds the Skies \*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding \*Shine, Jesus, Shine

### **8:15AM**

STARs Tech: Tom Moyer Acolyte: Tyler McNicholas

### **10:45AM**

Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner Scripture Reader: Natalie Reichl STARs Tech: DonnaLee Yeatts

Acolyte: Conner Strauss Children's Message: Pastor Michelle



### *Staff*

Pastor Michelle Funk, L.M.  
[stjohnsucc.youth@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnsucc.youth@rcn.com)

Rev. David Quinn  
Visitation Pastor  
[pedalinpastor@gmail.com](mailto:pedalinpastor@gmail.com)

Rev. Cliff Herring  
Bridge Associate Pastor  
[reched@rcn.com](mailto:reched@rcn.com)

Mrs. Gail Hanzl  
Director of Music  
[stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com)

Mrs. Susan Kuder  
Office Administrator  
[stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnsucc.secretary@rcn.com)

Mrs. Susan Weldner, Treasurer  
[sbweldner@gmail.com](mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Emilie Moyer,  
Financial Secretaries  
[thomasmoyer@rcn.com](mailto:thomasmoyer@rcn.com)

Mrs. Michelle Gutekunst  
Coordinating Custodian &  
EZ Worship Tech

Mr. Robert Czekner – Custodian

Ms. Christina Bach – Custodian

St. John's Custodian's email:  
[custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com)

### *Consistory*

- Sharon Antrim
- Gary Black
- Marion DeMilio
- Brandon Deutsch – Youth Deacon
- Amy Feidler
- Brian Fisher
- Ted Hess
- Jenn Hunsicker
- Colleen Kulhamer, President
- Noreen Miller
- Pete Mohr
- Anne Welsh
- Dewey Yeatts, Vice President

### *Committees & Chairpersons*

- Altar Guild – Kim Hillegass & Nancy Dougherty
- Altar Flowers – Sally Gibson – 610-264-1210
- Bowling & Softball – Donald Schneck – 610-216-2707
- Christian Education – Karen Stoitsits
- Church Usage – Ted Hess
- Crafters Group – Carol Raszler – 610-393-7572
- Evangelism – Kenda Catalini – 484-358-7453
- “Fun” Raising Committee – Cheryl Weaver 610-443-0161
- Healthcare – Marion DeMilio – 610-797-9652
- Interior – Beth Erney
- Mission – Jean McGonigle
- Personnel – Connie Viglione
- Prayer Chain – Mary Jane Ott – 610-434-9732
- Property – Charlie Apple – 610-928-7193
- STARS – Michelle Gutekunst
- Stewardship & Finance – Gary Madaus
- Visitation – Pat Thompson
- Women's Group – Colleen Kulhamer – 610-264-2499 [clkulhamer@aol.com](mailto:clkulhamer@aol.com)
- Worship & Music – Nancy Dougherty
- Youth Ministry – Nicole McWilliams & Jenn Hunsicker

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:30AM – 4:00PM  
610-264-8421

Worship Services  
8:15AM and 10:45AM