

Dear Friends and Family at St. John's,

Featured in this edition of The Enlightener is Rev. Addie's note in which she shares her bittersweet thoughts on her time at St. John's and her parting. A ministry of 10 years that saw so much change is impossible to convey in one letter, but we are all grateful for her time here. I am most grateful for Rev. Addie's love of God, the Church of Christ and the people of St. John's.

Right now is a time to feel our feelings rather than to ignore or even fear them. We acknowledge our fears about the future, but do not give in to them. Instead, let us recognize that God does not send fear into the hearts of God's people. When we receive messages of fear and hopelessness they are generally from what I like to call: "the other spirit." Sure, at times we can see some truth in a message of doom, but ironically it is sometimes harder for us to see the promise that is near or even just around the corner.

We will always have challenges in our future, for nothing will change unless we actively invite that change and work within and among us to realize the change that is God's future. St. John's is about to embark on a future with a Settled Lead Pastor that will provide the opportunity to work towards a shared vision of divine servanthood.

For now, I encourage you to think about the ways in which God and St. John's have been a positive support to you in the past. The promises that God has fulfilled in the past are our best guide to a hopefulness about our future – a future that is unknown and unknowable, but already held in God's hand before we can "see" it. I cherish the opportunity to walk together with you as your "new" Lead Bridge Pastor as we journey towards St. John's future – a future of promise and joy!

Peace,

Pastor Tom

Beloved members and friends of St. John's,

I want to take time to share with you my deepest and most heartfelt thanks for the celebration on my final Sunday. Your kind words, your incredibly generous gifts, your gestures of love, and most especially, your hugs, filled me with warmth, gratitude, and joy. A special thank you to all who took time to plan and provide an absolutely delightful luncheon and who hosted my family and I with such care. I am stepping away with a heart overflowing.

As we move forward, our paths diverging, I want to lovingly communicate with you some important boundaries that I am responsible for establishing per The Ordained Minister's Code of Ethics. Once our goodbyes are said, I will need to intentionally separate myself for period of one year. This means that I will not be available to perform pastoral services for you or provide you spiritual support in person, by email, phone, text, or social media. It will not be possible for me to attend church events, worship, or social gatherings. Of course, if we bump into one another at the grocery store or, more likely, the coffee shop, I will greet you with joy (and a hug), but I will not intentionally seek out time with you and I trust that, if we do see each other, we will refrain from discussing church-related matters. If, after time has passed, you would like to re-connect, you are welcome to reach out, aware that, of course, our relationship will be different moving forward.

I know that all of this sounds intense and rather harsh or abrupt, particularly because of the close bond we have shared for so many years. I feel it, too. It's one of the most challenging parts of our call as Pastors. That said, I fully trust that I have been asked to hold these boundaries with very good reason. This "letting go" will make it possible for you to have hearts and arms open wide, ready to welcome new leadership and establish a deep connection of trust with them. Personally speaking, this distance will create space to grieve, rest, reflect, and give thanks for each of you and all that we have lived and learned together. It also gives me the freedom to jump into the new call that God has placed on my life and be fully present in my new work environment.

My integrity, my fitness for ministry, and the covenant I share with my colleagues are all deeply important to me, so I ask that you help me honor them by holding these boundaries with me, difficult as that may be for both of us.

I will end by sharing what I have shared with you before: even with physical distance between us, you are never far from my heart and my prayers. May God bless you and keep you, my dear ones, and thank you for everything.

All my love,

Rev. Addie Story

Rev. Addie P.S. Remember...No worries!

save the dates! SENIOR PASTOR CANDIDATE'S WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 16TH & NOVEMBER 17TH, 2024

Dear St. John's Members,

The Search and Call Team of St. John's is **excited** to share with you that we have reached a unanimous decision for our final candidate for the Senior Pastor position at St. John's!

The Candidate's Weekend for the final candidate will be held at St. John's on **Saturday, November 16th and Sunday, November 17th.** During this weekend you will have ample opportunities to meet the final candidate at St. John's.



Saturday, November 16

Coffee Corner | Library | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy a hot coffee or tea and some light breakfast snacks while getting to know our final candidate.

Meet and Greet | Library | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come and have some light snacks and mingle with our final candidate.

Sunday, November 17

The final candidate will be preaching at our 10:15 service followed by a congregational vote on the candidate.

Fellowship will follow in the assembly hall after the vote.

NOTE: Due to confidentiality, we cannot share the candidate's name at this time.

More information on our candidate is coming soon! For those that do not have email, hard copies of the final candidate's information and bio will be available in the Church Office after Thursday, November 14th. Please let Kay know if you would like to stop by and pick up a copy.

WITH PEACE AND GRATITUDE,

The St. John's Search and Call Team



Stewardship Sunday to Close Covenant Campaign

November 10th is Stewardship Sunday. For three consecutive Sundays, you have heard three different reasons why St. John's members church support our On Stewardship Sunday the Covenant Cards that you have returned will be dedicated during morning worship. It will be a testament to this year's theme: Giving Our All. So, if you have not prayerfully decided your financial contribution for 2025 and returned your card, please do it now. Put it in the basket on the Communion table, in the offering plate, or in the box on the church office door. Let your card be dedicated on November 10th. The Stewardship Committee.

> Articles Due for December Issue Deadline: November 10

Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next *Enlightener* issue: ☆ Advent

- ☆ Love Gift Sunday
- ☆ World AIDS Day
- ☆ Christmas Services

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* basket in the Church Office or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

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Financial Report: Matt Carson, Financial Chair

September 2024 Financial Summary:

- 1. Income vs. Budget:
 - September income was \$40,691.75.
 Of this total, \$25,596.32 came from tithes and offerings, falling short of the \$26,443 budgeted goal by \$846.68.

2. Expenses:

 August expenses were \$49,626.32, which is \$3,166.58 less than the budgeted amount of \$52,793.

3. Overall Impact:

 Although expenses were below budget, September continues the trend of less than expected tithes and offerings.

Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

- 1. Income:
 - Total year-to-date income is \$443,788.11, creating a shortfall of \$16,168.26.
- 2. Expenses:
 - Total year-to-date expenses are \$477,803.66, which is \$10,305.32 over the budgeted amount of \$467,498.34.

3. Overall Financial Status:

• The year-to-date deficit is \$38,018; the projected deficit was \$15,632.

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OCWM:

 Donations to OCWM for September were \$2,705. Year-to-date donations total \$38,283.21, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$30,709.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with Matt Carson, Treasurer.

Staff and Contractor Reports: Ministerial Staff (Tom Adil, Andrew Paulson)

- Pastor Tom requested an identified need or support for Kay or Grace should go through him to manage requests.
- Andrew encouraged more people to come to WNL Holden Prayer Service at 7 PM.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

• No report at this time.

Kay Peebles, Office Administrator

• Kay is working on security of emails with Altek for church business to help protect against phishing.

Grace Marchione, Communications Director

• Deferred to Task Force update.

Board Reports:

Trustees: (Alan Malachowski)

- Bob Bertolette stepped down as chair of Trustees. Alan Malachowski was appointed chair of Trustees.
- Job description for Facilities Manager was discussed and input given to Personnel Committee. Kay is managing bills and vendors until the Facilities Manager position is filled.

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Deacons: (Scott Vanderburg)

• Poinsettias for Christmas will be ordered.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

- Fall Benefit Concert, Bridge of Hope, will be held at Calvary Church, Souderton, on November 15. Contact Abbie Lampe or the Church Office if attending for discount tickets at \$20/person. There is also a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby.
- Love Gift Sunday is December 1, with items donated going to Urban Promise.
- Warming Tree items will be collected throughout the month of November. New hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves can be received until December 1.
- Family/Community Game Night with Trunk or Treat will be held Thursday, October 24, in the Assembly Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Signups are in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby bulletin board.

Elders: (Susan Fitzgerald)

- Elders identified items Leroy handled that are directly related to worship service.
- Emilie Truscott and Bill Cagney are investigating name tags for worship.

Current Business: Priority Initiatives

<u>Bridge Pastor Update (Bill Leslie)</u> Call Agreement for Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett approved by Council on October 3, 2024; start date November 4, 2024. Call Agreement is registered with the Conference.

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<u>Hire Senior Pastor: Search and Call Process</u> (Susan Fitzpatrick)

The committee has reached a decision on a final candidate for senior pastor who has verbally accepted the position.

Assuming a positive outcome, the candidate will lead worship on Sunday, November 17, followed immediately by a short congregational meeting and vote. Again, assuming a positive outcome, the candidate's start date and installation is projected to be end of February or early March.

Facilities/Superintendent Position (Marge Jewell, Personnel), Daytime Coverage (Bob Bertolette, Trustees) Personnel met and worked on the job description. Trustees were asked for their input. It was recommended that the Personnel Committee recruit additional people to be involved in hiring the Facilities Manager.

<u>Communications: Update on Task Force</u> (Mark Hogan/Grace Marchione) The website project is underway with the UCC Everywhere tool. Work is continuing on clarifying internal communication pathways and establishing project priorities. There will be a brief presentation at a congregational meeting on Sunday, October20.

<u>Communications Sessions during Social</u> <u>Hour (Deb Dayton)</u>

A table is set up during Social Hour for the congregation to ask questions. Future Sessions are:

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October: deferred to Congregational Meeting November 3: tentative session between Council representatives and Congregation

Outreach Mission beyond St. John's (Don Atkiss/Mark Bruen) Nothing planned for the remainder of 2024; possible Advent outreach.

<u>St. John's Reach Out to Members Initiative</u> (<u>Deb Dayton</u>) The group is having ongoing meetings.

New Business:

Bylaws Review and Interpretation (Mark Bruen)

A committee formed to review/interpret current and final approval issues.

Exterior Restoration Project (Bob Bertolette)

The two areas still needing restoration are the outside office wall (approximately \$70K) and the long wall at the playground (approximately \$170K). A fundraising campaign will begin for donations. Soupsale proceeds on October 27 will go to the restoration. The age of the oldest building standing is being investigated for historic registry or to possibly help with grants.

Old Business:

WNL Update (Andrew Paulson/Mary Billy) There have been (on average) 28 people attending the meal. Different food vendors have been tried.

Were You There?



Thirty Years Ago:

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Fall Youth Event featured a mystery– UCC Youth: Faith Detective.

Twenty-five Years Ago: The Search Committee was putting out the call for a new Associate Pastor. Sound familiar?

Twenty Years Ago: Minister of Music David Furniss presented a concert on the 100-year-old tracker (mechanical) organ at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in North Wales.

Fifteen Years Ago: St. John's reusable grocery tote bags were on sale during November Sundays' social hour.

Ten Years Ago: Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC sold the Mensch Mill Retreat and Conference Center.

Five Years Ago: A Spud Lunch was offered on Sunday, November 3, during social hour after church. A free-will offering assisted St. John's Youth in participating in the National Youth Event in July 2020 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

One Year Ago: Connect 3", the Sunday education/music time for children is underway. The "3" stands for faith, fellowship, community. This fall, the focus is on learning about a mission in Malawi and the people of faith there.

FALL CLEANUP: DON'T!



Good news! The latest advice for fall garden cleanup is to leave our gardens alone until spring. Many different pollinators overwinter in the garden, so if you clean everything up, you destroy their habitat. Birds also feed on the seeds from plants in the garden. We should wait until the temperatures in the Spring consistently reach the 50s to clean up our gardens. It is also good practice to mulch the leaves in your lawn rather than bag them and put them into landfills. Leaves are nature's fertilizer, so just cut them into small pieces with your mower (unless, of course, you maintain a compost pile). It may not look as great as cleaning everything up in the fall, but it sure does save a lot of work and is healthier for the environment.

From the Creation Stewards

Coming November 17

St. John's Charitable Gift Market, formerly the Alternative Gift Market.



This will be the 20th Gift Market at St. John's! It will take place from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. There will be a large selection of "Gifts from the Heart" offered by 17 charities. You can choose the perfect gift to honor those on your gift list with donations to organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and The Seeing Eye that help people, animals, and the environment. We have beautiful handcrafted cards to give with your gifts. The Market provides an excellent opportunity for children to learn about charitable giving, so bring your kids or grandkids. It's an easy way to purchase unique gifts for teachers, coaches, babysitters, relatives, or friends. Alex's Lemonade Stand will be at the Market, and soft pretzels and baked goods will be available for purchase. Also, there will be LIVE MUSIC for you to enjoy while shopping. You can find the Market shopping list on St. John's website and on the CGM bulletin board outside the Library. It will be available after worship on both November 3 and 10. For your convenience, CGM shopping will be extended until Monday, November 25, in the Church Office during office hours. See you on November 17 at the Market. Bring a friend and have fun shopping with us!

Summary of September and	Sep	Jan—Sep	
YTD Income and Expense	2024	2024	
Income			
Counters' Discrepancies	0.00	0.00	
Current Tithes/Offerings	25,596.32	286,616.49	
Event Income/Fundraisers	486.00	8,138.00	
Flowers	160.00	3,927.00	
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	1.37	273.24	
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	456.00	620.00	
Rental Income	0.00	19,500.00	
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	1,230.00	1,925.00	
Use-of-Building Income	150.00	2,650.00	
Total Income 28,079.69 323			
Gross Income	28,079.69	323,649.73	
Expenses			
Building Operation Expenses	5,069.93	51,713.80	
Deacons Expenses	520.93	10,657.30	
Educators Expenses	526.64	1,037.32	
Elders Expenses	1,066.21	1,820.73	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	842.13	
Operating Expenses	6,277.79	59,883.56	
Salaries and Benefits	33,955.58	328,508.46	
Trustees/Building Expenses	2,209.34	23,340.36	
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	1,480.00	1,480.00	
Total Expenses	51,106.42	479,283.66	
Net Operating Income	-23,026.73	-155,633.93	
Other Income			
Artist Series Income—Special	8,300.00	46,572.00	
Benevolence Offerings	2,980.00	50,435.63	
Soup/Cookies Sales	0.00	1,734.00	
Special Accounts	2,778.00	30, .2	
Total Other Income	14,058.00	228,852.84	
Other Expenses			
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	744.81	32,220.42	
Benevolence Disbursements	2,309.00	62,040.97	
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	1,126.00	
Special-Fund Expenditures	14,391.50	121,168.53	
Total Other Expenses	17,445.31	216,555.92	
Net Other Income	-3,387.31	12,296.92	
Net Income	-26,414.04	-143,337.01	
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Chancel Flower Ministry

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. Many lives have been touched by your efforts. Flowers should be delivered after the 10:15 AM church service or on Monday. Feel free to deliver the flowers to whomever you want—anyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary, people who are ill, people who are in the hospital, people who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to do not need to be members of St. John's. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room: plastic vases, St. John's Address Directory, and cards. Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them in the <u>plastic</u> <u>floral containers</u> located on the shelves in the flower room.

Return the green liners to the brass vases, they belong to the florist. Include a card for each bouquet. Also, write in the signup book who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday; this will help us avoid replicating recipients.

Please include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are out of town on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry.

November 3	Sarah Hogan
November 10	Lisa Thim
November 17	Sue & Bill Morris
November 24	Sarah Hogan

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for November 2024.



Please review this list

and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information on the list.

Reminder: The requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$35. Thank you!

November 3 All Saints' Sunday

In memory of Nancy and Bob Schultz and Harry, Juliet, and Minnie Schultz from Merle In memory of Charles R. Trout's November 8th birthday from his loving family

November 10 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 17

In memory of William Fritz's November 19th birthday from his daughters Connie May, Judy Koenig and family, and son Robert, and Jeane Fritz and family

In memory of L. Louella Trout's November 23rd birthday from her loving family

November 24

In memory of George A. Filson Jr.'s November 26th birthday from his family In memory of Catharine L. Kinter's November 26th birthday from her children and grandchildren (Kay Fiala's mother) In memory of Laura Burkholder's Nov. 27th birthday from her daughter, Judy Johnston, and family In memory of Eric Kirk's November 29th

birthday from his mother, Barbara Kirk

Oaxaca Learning Center Update from David Furniss The Oaxaca Learning Center (TOLC) continues to thrive in its goal to provide underserved Oaxacan youth ages 14 to 24 with the skills, tools, and self-confidence to envision a new future and move beyond the limitations of poverty. In a holistic learning community, the students are provided with academic tutoring in math, physics, chemistry, and English, with personal support provided by the staff and tutors, many of whom have grown through the benefits of TOLC. The Mexican Government has identified it as one of the best youth programs in Mexico. Since its founding in 2005, TOLC has served 3831 students and provided 81,644 tutoring hours. Academic success on entrance exams is 83%, far above the 37% Oaxaca state average.



Growth has created the need to expand the space at TOLC. Rather than continuing to rent outside auxiliary facilities, TOLC has undergone a project to expand the existing space to provide more classroom space and updated technology for learning and research. The construction is nearly complete and is full of promise for the future of TOLC. I have continued to faithfully support TOLC, and I encourage you, the members of St. John's, to continue the support you have given over the years. Robert Anyon, President of the Friends of the Oaxaca Learning Center (501c3 organization in the United States), has expressed gratitude specifically for the financial support St. John's has given in the past. I encourage you to visit the TOLC web site to learn more about this institution that gives hope to so many young people in Oaxaca. tolc.org.mex.

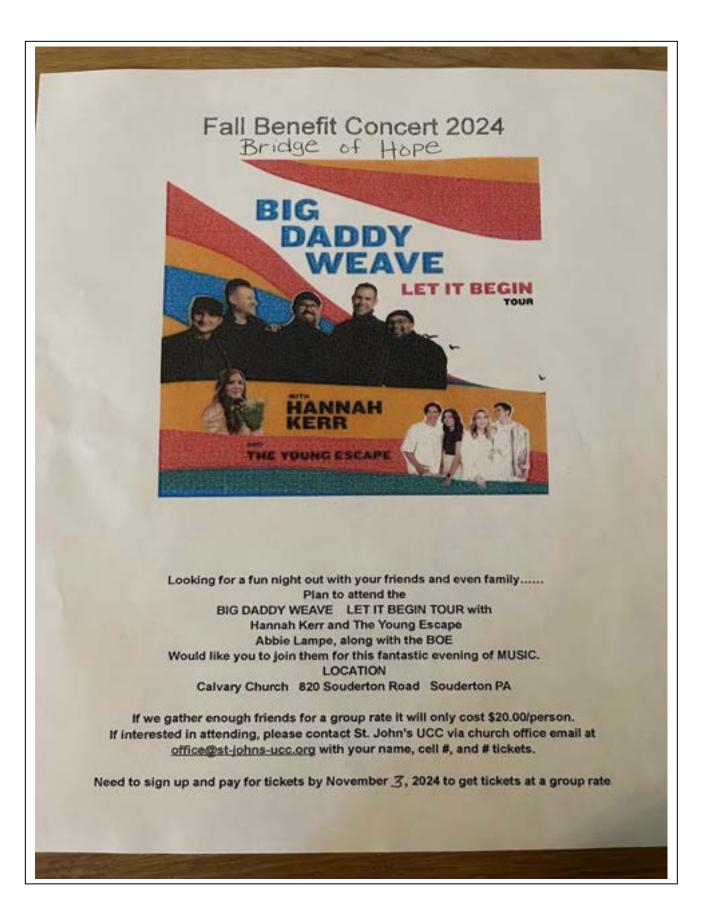
Creation Stewards Drought Report ...contemplating water while watering...

As you have noticed, starting in June we have had <u>one dry summer</u>. Add in the heat and we had a recipe for disaster concerning our church gardens. **THANKS TO THE MANY WATERERS** who dedicate themselves to watering for a week or more during



the growing season we averted the disaster. It was close though! There was watering to be done beyond the containers since we had many newly planted shrubs and trees for the June Garden Tour. Granted, we mustn't complain as we look at North Carolina and the problem of too much water! We all need to take a step back and think about how precious water is. It is the sustenance of all life on Earth for one thing. Below are just a few of the "100 Amazing Water Facts You Should Know" I found on the seametrics.com website.

- $\varpi\,$ Water is the most common substance found on Earth.
- $\varpi\,$ Water makes up about 71% of the Earth's surface.
- ϖ 96.5% of the Earth's water is saltwater. Fresh water constitutes 3.5% in lakes, rivers, and glaciers.
- $\varpi\,$ There is an estimated 326 million trillion gallons of water on Earth.
- ϖ If the entire world's water were to fit into a 4 liter jug the fresh water available for us would be equal to one tablespoon.
- ϖ About 27 trillion gallons of groundwater are drawn for use in the US each year.
- $\varpi\,$ About one half of the population in the US uses groundwater.
- T takes about 12 gallons of water per day to sustain a human (this figure takes into account all uses for water, such as drinking, sanitation, and food production).
- $\varpi\,$ 40% of freshwater withdrawals in the US are used for agriculture.
- σ Over 42,000 gallons of water (enough to fill a 30'x50' swimming pool) are needed to grow and prepare food for a typical Thanksgiving dinner for eight.
- $\varpi\,$ 1 pound of beef requires 1799 gallons of water to produce.
- ϖ 1 apple requires 18 gallons of water to produce.
- ϖ 85% of the world's population lives in the driest half of the planet.
- $\varpi\,$ Unsafe water kills 200 children every hour.
- ϖ In just one day 200 million workhours are consumed by women collecting water for their families.
- ϖ 1/3 of what the world spends on bottled water in one year could pay for projects providing water to everyone in need.
- The average family of four uses 180 gallons of water per day outdoors. It is estimated that over 50% is wasted by evaporation, wind, or overwatering.
- ϖ Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide.
- $\varpi\,$ A leaky faucet dripping one drop per second can waste more than 3000 gallons a year.
- ϖ If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake one mile long, one mile wide, and four feet deep.



Please help decorate our WARMING TREE.

In the spirit of the season, we are collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to help those in need. Any size is welcomed!

The warming tree is located in the narthex of the church. We will be collecting NEW items during the month of November.





(Note: Gifts must be unwrapped.)

•	Artist	2024-25 Giving & Sponsorship Opportunities
PATRON	Up to \$99	Your name will appear in our 4 concert programs and the gala program.
	\$100-\$249	The previous giving level benefits plus acknowledgment in The Enlightener, a monthly newsletter from St. John's UCC that reaches hundreds of households.
	\$250-\$499	The previous giving level benefits plus acknowledgment in Artist Series electronic newsletters, reaching over 600 email addresses.
	\$500-\$999	The previous giving level benefits plus 1 (one) complimentary gala ticket.
	\$1000-\$1999	The previous giving level benefits plus 1 (one) complimentary gala ticket, for a total of 2 (two) tickets.
0R =	\$2000-\$3499	Your name will be announced as a "bronze level sponsor" at the concert of your choice.
SPONSOR .	\$3500-\$4999	Your name will be announced as a "silver level sponsor" at two concerts of your choice.
≡ SI	\$5000+	Your name will be announced as a "gold level sponsor" at every concert.

All sponsorship tiers include the highest level of Patron benefits.

PREFER TO GIVE VIA CHECK OR CASH?

Mail or drop off your gift at St. John's UCC (500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446) along with the below form completed. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC and indicate Artist Series in the memo line.

Please print your name as you would like it to appear in our publications. Deadline to have your name included in publications is Thursday, October 31.

Name:

Donation Amount:

The Artist Series at St. John's

500 West Main St. Lansdale PA, 19446 info@stjohnsartistseries.org 215-855-5489 Scan the QR code to make a gift online!



www.stjohnsartistseries.org