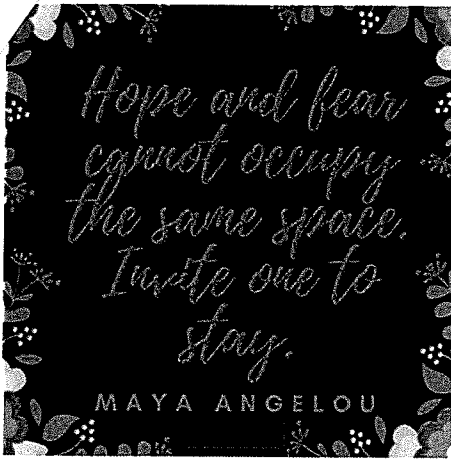


St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale Pa. 19446

Enlightener

April, 2020 Vol. XL, No. 04



For Such A Time As This

As I write to you this month, we are in the midst of addressing Governor Wolf's pronouncement regarding the closure of schools and venues where large groups of people gather, all in an effort to respond to the rapid spread of a virus we had never heard of until just a few months ago. How quickly things change, and how critical it is for us, as a faith community, to find both careful and compassionate ways to live out our faith, for such a time as this.

By now, most of you are aware that we, at St. John's, are doing church a bit differently, creating worship services that can be accessed on our website and communicating largely via social media and the Internet, along with our usual mailings. Pastoral care is being provided primarily via phone calls, and emergencies will be addressed if, and when, they arise. We are counting on you, St. John's wonderfully motley crew, to be looking out for one another. Please be especially tuned in to the most vulnerable among us and reach out to them in whatever way feels comfortable to you. Often, a simple call or a card in the mail can make a world of difference.

It is impossible to know how things will unfold in the weeks ahead, so we, out of necessity, must take one day at a time. That does not mean we are not carefully planning as we look toward the future, but we must also acknowledge that much is beyond our control. As people of faith, we are reminded that while we do not know what the future holds, we are confident God holds the future, and us. We are in good hands indeed!

I believe with my whole being that our current situation provides an opportunity to be the church in new and creative ways. Knowing that physically distancing ourselves from one another is the wisest course of action for the time being, the good news is that there are a multitude of ways we can stay connected and respond with compassion and care to those around us even though we cannot gather together in person. In recent days, I have been reminded of the words of Maya Angelou: "Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay." My prayer is that we will invite hope to stay as we seek, with God's help, to be there for each other. May God grant us wisdom and strength beyond our own as we navigate the uncharted waters ahead.

Rev. Sue

APRIL



Church School	Sundays	9:00 AM
Worship	Sundays	8:00 & 10:15 AM

“After Worship” refers to the 10:15 AM service.

EVENTS		
4/1	Communion Lenten Study	Noon & 12:30 PM 7:30 PM
4/2	Palm Party	10:30 AM
4/5	Sixth Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday New Member Sunday Confirmation Class	
4/8	Communion	Noon & 12:30 PM
4/9	Prayer Vigil Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae, Communion	Begins at Noon 7:30 PM
4/10	Men’s Breakfast @ Trinity UCC Prayer Vigil Good Friday Service Good Friday Service Broadcast on WNPV 1440 AM	7:00 AM Ends at Noon Noon–1:00 PM 3:00 PM
4/12	Easter, Communion Whites Road Park Sunday School—United Adult Class Only St. John’s <i>Enlightener</i> Deadline	7:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM
4/13	Church Office Closed	
4/14	Men’s Breakfast	9:00 AM
4/19	Fairly Traded Coffee and Tea Sale	After Worship
4/21	Worship at MANNA	7:30 PM
4/26	Prayer Shawl Sunday Basket Theme Due Date Artist Series – Spring Concert	4:00 PM
4/29	Communion	Noon & 12:30 PM

Manna Donations

During this time of “Social Distancing,” Manna will continue to accept food donations from St. John’s as usual. Please drop off your donations at the church office, and they will be delivered to Manna by a St. John’s volunteer. Any questions, call Lisa at 215-855-5489.

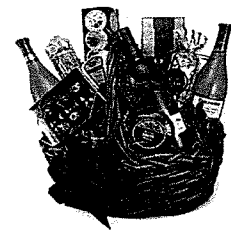
MEETINGS		
AA	Tuesdays	7:30 PM
Boards and Council Meetings	4/13	7:00 & 8:00 PM
Brownies and Girl Scouts	4/6 & 4/20 Tuesdays	6:30 PM 7:00 PM
Chess Club	Fridays	6:00 PM
<i>Enlightener</i> Folding	4/23	9:30 AM
NAMI	4/7	7:00 PM
Prayer Group	4/20	7:00 PM
Prayer Shawl	4/6	6:30 PM
Prayer Walk	4/9 & 4/23	7:00 AM
St. John’s Stampers	4/9	1:00 PM
Yoga	Thursdays	7:00 PM

CHILDREN’S CHOIR/UNITED VOICES		
Children’s Choir: Activity Room	Wednesdays	6:00–7:30 PM
United Voices: Music Room	Wednesdays	5:30–6:30 PM

REHEARSALS		
Chancel Choir & Friends	Thursdays	7:30 PM
United Ringers	Thursdays	6:15 PM

St. John’s calendar is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes, should they occur.

IT’S BASKET RAFFLE TIME!



All wishing to donate a basket should choose a theme and notify Judy and Alan Johnston or Barb MacMullen by April 26. Signup sheets will also be available in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby. Each basket should be wrapped in clear cellophane with a tag attached identifying the theme and the contents. Baskets should be completed and dropped off at the church office May 3 through the 7. The first day of ticket sales will be after the 8 AM service on May 10. Please consider donating a basket for this exciting fundraiser!



Church Council News

Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor, Cotreasureers:

Including the planned transfer from our investments, our regular February income of \$41,118 fell short of our expenses of \$45,511. Our year-to-date deficit has now risen to (\$6,315).

We committed to a 2020 "Our Church's Wider Mission" (OCWM) contribution of \$46,460, or about \$3,872 a month. February contributions to OCWM totaled \$3,618. Year-to-date we are just about on target. Please continue to support this important work.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with our Cotreasureers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dr. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor:

Five new members will be received on Palm Sunday. The Lenten Study, "Faith that Works: A practical guide to including our faith in everyday life," continues to meet in the library at 7:30 PM on March 11 and 25 and April 1.

The homework assignment for St. John's members is ongoing. Scripture verses are posted on the bulletin board located in the Sanctuary. A pocket-size survival guide will be created.

Noon communion continues on Wednesdays throughout the Lenten season.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

Plans for Easter continue. She is working with Educators to finalize details for Goodie Boxes.

David Furniss, Minister of Music:

The annual tuning of the organ is scheduled for Thursday, March 12. This is also in preparation for the next Artist Series concert Sunday, March 22, at 4 PM with Alan Morrison, organist. A not-to-be-missed showpiece is scheduled for the ending of the concert. The last Artist Series is scheduled for Sunday, April 26, featuring St. John's Choir and Friends. Sunday, June 7, is a "Celebration of Music Ministry" with all the St. John's choirs.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

No report.

[continued at right]

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

The Easter lily order forms will be in the *Herald and Bulletin* beginning the week of March 15.

The North Wales Library and St. John's will be coordinating efforts to assist with the US Census. Representatives will be available on Thursday, April 9, from 4 to 6 PM and again Sunday, April 19, following both services. More information is available on St. John's website. (Note: The US Census events have been postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.)

Board Reports:

Elders

- o Tags for the light bulbs have been ordered to give to visitors at worship on Sunday mornings.
- o Creation Justice idea: use less paper/printing fewer reports in months ahead.

Educators

- o Goodie Boxes will be filled and mailed the end of March.
- o Easter Sunrise and egg hunt was discussed.
- o Vacation Bible School, June 23 to 25, theme was discussed.
- o Basket Raffle ideas were discussed.

Deacons

- o Basket Raffle theme: "Eat, Drink, and be Merry."
- o All basket theme ideas should be submitted to Barbara MacMullen as soon as known.
- o Creation Justice idea: a new recycling can has been added to social hour.

Trustees*

- o Sanctuary painting is complete.
- o Anchor House parking lot update: Discussion was held with Lansdale Borough regarding impervious area for additional parking for St. John's. A motion was approved to have the Trustees pursue the Anchor House parking lot improvements with Lansdale Borough with final funding of the project to be approved by Council at a later date once all estimates have been received.

Old Business:

Minister of Music Search Update

Deb Dayton updated Council members on the Minister of Music Search.

Four live interviews were held based upon phone interviews. The personnel committee is still in discussion with candidates.

Stained Glass Windows Brochure

Aly Faga and Rev. Sue worked to match the photos with descriptions. Aly will create a new brochure.

Creation Justice Initiative

Don Atkiss stated the first physical meeting was held after worship on Sunday, March 8. The remaining meetings will be held as needed via Zoom chat group. A covenant will be written to submit.

[continued on next page]

Labyrinth Garden Renewal

The Labyrinth Garden rejuvenation is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 3. Participants are encouraged to wear their gardening clothes to worship. Deacons will prepare lunch. Rev. Sue will have a meditation on the Meditation Garden.

New Business:

Lansdale Cleanup Day

March 29 is Lansdale Cleanup Day at Stony Creek Park on Hancock Street and all are welcome. St. John's members will meet at 12:30 PM and are encouraged to wear their St. John's T-shirts. A T-shirt will be provided for those who don't have one.

Board of Deacons:

Our Basket Raffle theme is "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry."

Easter lilies have been ordered and will arrive Good Friday morning between 9 AM and 12 PM.

Board of Elders:

Jo-Ann Sine from St. John's Outreach Team shared with us an overview of the various projects they support: MANNA, Crop Walk, Bread for the World, Global Child Sponsorship, Feed My Starving Children, Bethany Christian Services, Helping Hand Ministry, and The Worm Project.

We are making plans for the upcoming Basket Raffle.

Attendance for February 2020

Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	Past 5 Years	Average
2/2	62	121	183	2019	226
2/9	53	183	236	2018	190
2/16	64	150	214	2017	230
2/23	61	150	211	2016	232
Total*	240	604	844	2015	211
*Average/Week = 211 Ash Wednesday Noon Service = 34 Evening Service = 85				Past 5-Year Average/Week = 218	

Umbrella Ministry	
April 5	Joyce Huisenga
April 12	Marcia Stacy
April 19	Nancy Roberts
April 26	Liz Rivett

[continued at right]

April 2020 Elder of the Morning

Date	Elder	Activity
4/5	Judy Leslie	Palm Sunday
4/12	Sue Clemens	Easter, Communion
4/19	Jim Stevenson	
4/26	Ted Kasander	Spring Concert 4 PM

Board of Educators:

Confirmation Sunday is May 31. Educators are Social Hosts, looking for three to four volunteers to assist in serving.

Themes for the Basket Raffle: Educators, "In the Bulb There Is a Flower;" Sunday School Class: "Summer Fun."

Creation Justice met on March 8 to see how each board is "going green."

April 2020 Acolytes	
4/5	Evie & Lexi Hutchinson
4/12	No Acolytes—Easter Sunday
4/19	Andrew & Christopher DiPlacido
4/26	Darcy & Gretchen Reese

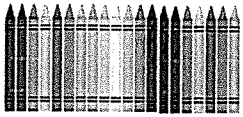
Junior Church Schedule April 2020	
4/5	Mary Billy (215.527.6238) mjbilly91@gmail.com
4/12	No Junior Church—Easter Sunday
4/19	Kelly Bresadola (215.694.0939) kabresadola@yahoo.com
4/26	Liz Rivett (732.604.4180) lizrivett@verizon.net

*Change to the Board of Trustees: Mike Donahue's email is msjerdonahue@gmail.com.



4/5	Jessica & Matt Carson
4/12	Easter—Deacons
4/19	Amy Faga & Suzanne Loverdi
4/26	Clare & Harry Sherlock

If you have a conflict, please try to find a replacement from your complete list of social hosts.



April Nursery Helpers

Thanks to the folks who will be caregivers in the nursery during our 10:15 worship service:

- 4/5 Charlene & Paul Herrick
- 4/12 Emily Donahue & tba
- 4/19 Amy Faga & Gretchen Reese
- 4/26 Jessica & Pam Ace

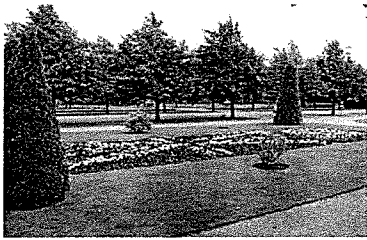
If you are on the schedule for the nursery, please arrive at 10:00 AM. If you cannot serve on the Sunday you have been scheduled, it is important to find a replacement. Please follow these guidelines:

† **FIRST:** Call someone else on the schedule to switch your week. Most scheduling difficulties can be handled this way.

† **If you are unable to find someone,** please call me at 215.527.6237.

Thanks again for serving!

Mary Billy, Nursery Coordinator



Citizens For The Revitalization Of Lansdale

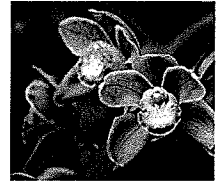
There will be a Spotted Lantern Fly/Cleanup day on Sunday, March 29, at Stony Creek Park, 200 Hancock Street, Lansdale. The Creation Justice Group would like to put a group of volunteers from St. John's together to help. We plan to meet at the park at 12:30 PM. Volunteers should wear their St. John's shirts. We will be giving away free T-shirts to any volunteers who don't have one. This is a great opportunity to learn how to identify Spotted Lantern Fly egg masses and to help keep Lansdale parks beautiful.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Ron Long, nephew of Nancy Roberts, and Ben Hammel's brother-in-law, Curt, who passed away recently.



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 need not 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 into the plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room. Return the liners back into the brass vases. 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 else. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry. Please leave the plastic liners in the brass vases, they belong to the florist.

Lisa

April 5	Sue & Mike Donahue
April 12	Melody Bergey
April 19	Sally & Steve Jarinko
April 26	Karen & Mark Methlie



April 2020 Usher Team Leaders	
4/5	Nancy Roberts, Roger Atkin
4/12	Thomas Beggs
4/19	Jim Lederach
4/26	Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie

ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE
DEADLINE: APRIL 12

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

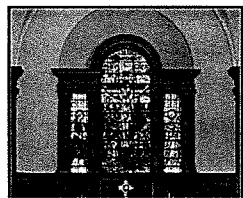
- Manna Sunday
- Ascension
- Pentecost
- Confirmation

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (bottom bin), or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237.

The *Enlightener* is published monthly except for July and August by St. John's United Church of Christ, 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: All men of St. John's were urged to attend the April 7 Men's Breakfast and Program.



Twenty-five Years Ago:

A letter regarding the kitchen renovation explaining in detail the selection of contractors, specifics about contracts, and the financial impact of the plan was sent to all members.

Twenty Years Ago: Interfaith Community Services' Easter Baskets provide local families in need a full Easter dinner. To fill these baskets ICS needs the help of area churches. The *Herald* published the item that St. John's would be donating.

Fifteen Years Ago: The Prayer Shawl Ministry was highlighted on April 17 as we welcomed cofounder Janet Bristow. She presented a workshop for those interested in participating in the ministry.

Ten Years Ago: An Earth Day stream cleanup event was held on April 10 at Lorimer Park in Huntingdon Valley.

Five Years Ago: The PSEC Spring Youth Event was held April 17 to 19 at High Point Camp, Birdsboro, for youth ages 13 to 18.

One Year Ago: St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends and Trinity Lutheran Church Chancel Choir Perkasio presented Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, featuring Brian Ming Chu, Baritone, and Kevin Freaney, Organist.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for April 2020.

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 \$25. Thank you!

April 5: PALM SUNDAY

In memory of Martine Boorse's April 7th birthday from her husband, Richard

In memory of Robert and Madge Chandler; Marvin, James, and Marjetta Moyer; and Benjamin, Betty, and Helen A. Hammel from the LaVerne Moyer family and the Carol and Ben Hammel family

April 12: EASTER SUNDAY

In memory of Carol Smith from Jim, Anne, and Dan
In memory of Dr. and Mrs. E. Willard Hartzell's April 16th wedding anniversary from their daughter, Dee Reedman, and family

In memory of Mary C. Fritz's April 16th birthday from her family

In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday from his wife, Jean, and family

April 19

In remembrance of the 80th wedding anniversary of parents, Grace and the late Pete Ehly, on April 20th from their daughter, Dean

In memory of Verna Kile's April 23rd birthday from her granddaughter, Melody Bergey

In memory of Warren and Lorraine Badger's wedding anniversary on April 23rd from their children, David and Melodie Badger and Susan and John Hendricks

In memory of Betty Focht's April 24th birthday from her family, Sally, Steve, and Eric Jarinko

April 26

In loving memory of Charles W. Lutter's April 29th birthday from his family

In memory of William Roberts from his wife, Nancy

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	February 2020	Jan-Feb 2020
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	28,713.85	65,187.37
Church School Current	26.00	26.00
Event Income/Fundraisers	735.00	795.00
Flowers	225.00	475.00
Rental Income	2,700.00	5,400.00
Use-of-Building Income	738.00	1,038.00
Youth Group	5.00	5.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	158.00	286.00
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	0.00	4.63
Total Income	33,300.85	73,217.00
Gross Income	33,300.85	73,217.00
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	34,139.76	68,279.52
Deacons Expenses	779.46	1,209.45
Educators Expenses	7.16	7.16
Elders Expenses	127.40	461.19
Trustees/Building Expenses	927.08	4,425.53
Building Operation Expenses	4,355.68	11,016.67
Operating Expenses	4,711.62	9,304.32
Miscellaneous Expenses	355.70	355.70
Total Expense	45,403.86	95,059.54
Net Ordinary Income	-12,103.01	-21,842.54
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	7,817.33	15,634.66
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-4,285.68	-6,207.88
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	440.00	440.00
Benevolence Offerings	5,506.52	9,804.02
Special Accounts	1,698.68	10,750.68
Soup Sales	485.00	1,159.00
Total Other Income	8,130.20	22,153.70
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	4,134.00	15,552.40
Special Fund Expenditures	1,169.54	4,775.68
Alternative Gift Market	0.00	26.46
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	150.00	650.00
Total Other Expense	5,453.54	21,004.54
Net Other Income	2,676.66	1,149.16
Net Income	-9,426.35	-20,693.38
Net Income Plus Transfers	-1,609.02	-5,058.72




News from the Pews

By now, I rather suspect most of you know that this little church mouse doesn't miss much when it comes to being aware of all that goes on at St. John's. I do a fair amount of scurrying around the building attending meetings, listening to conversations and reading announcements, so I know that Pastor Sue gave everyone a homework assignment to be completed during the 40-day season of Lent. She encouraged you to identify those Scripture verses that guide and help you on your faith journey—verses so important that you know them by heart or are willing to learn them by heart in the days ahead.

Since I consider myself a member of St. John's wonderfully motley crew, I am taking this homework assignment seriously, and have come up with the verses that are most important and helpful to me at this time. They are Matthew 11:28–30 and include these important words of Jesus: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Tiny church mouse that I am, most of life's burdens feel heavy, but knowing that Jesus is eager to help me carry those burdens makes all the difference in the world! I'm going to ask Pastor Sue to write my verse on one of the brightly colored pieces of paper Pastor Addie has provided near the bulletin board in front of the Sanctuary and add my verse to the mix. I hope you will join me in adding your verse (or verses) as well.

I also look forward to seeing you in the days ahead, whether at St. John's or at Manna for worship once a month, or in White's Road Park early Easter morning. Wherever and whenever we gather as God's creatures, something extraordinary happens. God shows up, and you won't want to miss it!

AMOS

OFFICIAL CALL -  PSEC ANNUAL MEETING 2020
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

Deepening Our Journey

Deepening Our Connection

Scripture: John 4: 1-42

You are invited !

Thursday, June 4—Saturday, June 6, 2020

@ The Inn at Reading

1040 Park Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Register at: <https://psecannual20.eventbrite.com>



Sister Simone Campbell—We are excited to announce that Sister Simone Campbell will join us for our 2020 Annual Spring Meeting. Sister Simone Campbell is the Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice – a federal advocacy organization founded by Catholic Sisters to lobby in Washington, D.C. for policies that mend the gaps in income and wealth in the United States. She has led six cross-country “Nuns on the Bus” trips focused on tax justice, healthcare, economic justice, comprehensive immigration reform, voter turnout, bridging divides in politics and society, and mending the gaps. Sister Simone Campbell wrote the famous “Nuns’ Letter,” considered by many as critically important in convincing Congress to support the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and is the author of “A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community,” published by HarperCollins. She has received numerous awards, spoke at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. She is a religious leader, attorney, and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change.

For agenda, documents and more information regarding Annual Meeting 2020,
go to <https://psec.org/news/annual-meeting-2020/>

PLEASE NOTE * Registration ends May 3, 2020**

Rooms CANNOT be secured, via the room block, after this date!

Walk-ins will NOT be able to have meals!

For questions contact Susan at the PSEC office at susan@psec.org

or 484-949-8774 x 312

ST. JOHN'S
Artist Series

Spring Concert

Sunday, April 26, 4:00

Chancel Choir and Friends

A celebration of choral music from Artist Series concerts over the years

This retrospective concert features choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and the *Holocaust Cantata* by Donald McCullough, as well as music by J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn, and Davis Giersch

Save the Date...

**For a celebration of the Music Ministry at St. John's
Featuring music by all of St. John's Choirs and
David Furniss, Minister of Music**

Sunday, June 7, 4:00 pm

Patrons of St. John's Artist Series 2019-2020

Benefactor

Lorene Ahrens, Lynne Bartholomew, Sandy & Scott Brown, Mark & Grace Bruen, Den & Ruth Ellman, A Friend, David Furniss, Ken & Bonnie Hales, Leroy & Linda Horst, Phil & Wendy Hunt, Sally & Steve Jarinko, Anne & Eric Kinsey, Clifford J. Kneipp, Bill & Judy Leslie, Mark & Karen Methlie, Dan & Lillian Panachyda, Pricilla Ponist

Sponsor

Don & Sally Atkiss, Sue & Bob Bertolette, Thelma Brunner, Marie Bertolette Carota, Amy & Andy Faga, Bob & Jean Fehnel, Debby & Steve Hendricks, Marcia Stacy, Scott & Liz Vanderburg, Joe & Carol Voicheck

Donor

Barb & Don Fretz, Nicole & Don Groff, Ruth Moyer

Friend

Marie Boulton, Joe Feher, Rosa Giletti in memory of Greg Giletti, Mary Lynne Snyder

