

Enlightener

September, 2020 Vol. XL, No. 06



Little Did We Know

When the theme was chosen for this past year at St. John's ~ "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow" (a phrase from the beloved hymn *Great is Your Faithfulness*), little did we know how timely that theme would be. Five and half months ago, a global pandemic brought things to a grinding halt, turned people's lives upside down, and forced us to find creative new ways to be the church outside of the church building. During this time, our leadership team has worked diligently and thoughtfully as we move in the direction of gathering once again for in-person worship, an undertaking far more complex than most folks realize. Although we have not yet set a date for resuming in-person worship, we are looking toward the fall, and are urging you to once again carefully consider and embrace the "I Agree" statement that was included in a recent mailing to St. John's members and friends as we seek to clearly demonstrate our deep concern for all of our fellow worshippers. You will find a copy of this important document on page 2 of this month's Enlightener.

If, in recent days, you have ventured out for Wednesday noon chimes concerts, stopped by the church to drop off things, or simply spent time enjoying the beautiful gardens and labyrinth lovingly cared for by our volunteers, you know much has been happening at St. John's, even in the midst of the pandemic. Most visible is the repaving of the parking lot on the former Anchor House property, a project that will also include paver walkways and beautifying the green space, to be completed in the fall.

This leads me to asking for your input as we seek to rename the property that once housed St. John's original church building and parsonage. The original church was demolished in the 1960's and in the late 1970's, the remaining parsonage became Anchor House, a halfway house for teenage boys. Three years ago, when the ministry provided by Anchor House relocated to a larger, more open space, Anchor House was demolished and the property has since been repurposed primarily to provide additional accessible parking for church activities and a green space that enhances the beauty of our grounds. If you have suggestions for a new name for this property, please give me a call or email me. All suggestions will be considered, and the one that fits best will be revealed in the months ahead.

One of my favorite quotes from Helen Keller reminds us that "life is a daring adventure or nothing." Although we most certainly did not choose the daring adventure we are now engaged in as we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of a global pandemic, we do get to choose how we will respond to this adventure. May we, with God's help, choose to learn from the challenges of this difficult time, and may we not lose heart as we look, with hope, toward a future better than the past.

Rev. Sue

Personal Commitment and Agreement Statement

For all persons desiring to participate in onsite worship gatherings and activities at St. John's United Church of Christ

As St. John's makes plans to restart church gatherings and worshipping together, one of the steps necessary is for all of us to agree to take certain actions to facilitate the wellness of our church community and those persons at risk.

I agree:

- To stay home if anyone in my household feels ill or has been diagnosed with Covid 19, or I have been in a recent situation where my risk of exposure has increased,
- To wear a mask when on church property, whether I am inside the building or on the church grounds,
- To maintain social distancing of six feet inside and outside the building on St. John's grounds (members of immediate household may be grouped together),
- To refrain from physical touch, greeting or shaking hands,
- To use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and when moving to a new area of the building,
- To follow all verbal directions from staff and ushers and written guidance when present in the building including:
 - To follow directions for entering and exiting the building to minimize congestion points and inadvertent contacts
 - To go directly to the assigned pew without stopping to talk (may be escorted)
 - To limit the surfaces I touch
- To refrain from singing along with music or hymns, due to risk of Covid spread by droplets and aerosol created by singing

I agree to the above out of concern not only for my own well-being, but for the well-being of this faith community of which I have chosen to be a part.

Please sign below to indicate your agreement:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



Hello St. John's parents and faithful volunteers!

As the summer moves forward and we shift our focus to the months ahead, there is so much that is uncertain in almost every aspect of our lives. I know you are all navigating the complicated and confusing task of deciding what is best for your families with regard to the upcoming school year. You are juggling jobs, commitments, canceled vacations, bored kids, technology...the daunting list goes on and on. It is important that you know that in the sea of uncertainty, there are a few very important things on which you can count: First, you are loved by a God who is both steady enough to keep you standing when the ground beneath you seems to be constantly shifting, AND flexible enough to move with you through whatever you are feeling as you try your best to "go with the flow"; Second, your St. John's family is surrounding you with prayers and support in the midst of this uncharted territory. Please do not forget to lean into that gift, to ask for help when you need it, and to share with us your burdens so that we might help you carry them.

We at St. John's are also looking ahead and are carefully and prayerfully planning what the next few months may look like.

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While an exact date of resumed in-person worship has not yet been identified, we do know that when we gather back together within the walls of St. John's, things will look very different than they have in the past.

Most notably, we will be "pressing pause" on our Nursery and Junior Church ministries until it is safe to gather children together again. The best place for our kids to be once we are back in the sanctuary is in the pews with you, their immediate families.

This means that, for now, we won't be calling upon our beloved Nursery and Junior Church volunteers. Once it is safe and those ministries get going again, we hope you will be eager to pick up where you left off and continue to offer your time and gifts to the youngest among us. Children have a very special place in God's heart, and in the heart of St. John's. We are seeking every opportunity to include them in worship in ways that are meaningful and fun! We are counting on you to help us continue to make church matter in the lives of our young ones! More information about other programs, particularly Sunday School, will be coming in the weeks ahead. Please know you and your families are deeply appreciated and are surrounded by many, many prayers.

Pastor Addie

***PS: Please save SEPTEMBER 20 on your calendars as "Celebration Sunday."**

Though we won't gather and celebrate in our traditional way, there will be something special to pick up at church from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM that Sunday! More information coming soon!

Monday, July 13, 2020
Meeting Held with Council Board Chairs and
COVID-19 Planning Group Members
**** All information for reports has been
received via email ****



**Theme for the Year: *Strength for Today,
Bright Hope for Tomorrow***

**Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor,
Cotreasurers:**

June was a “below average” month for St. John’s financially. Our regular June income of \$40,778 fell short of our expenses of \$43,218. Having entered June somewhat behind year-to-date (YTD), we are now \$7,837 (or 2.8%) behind YTD. Being behind YTD as we enter the “slow” summer months of July and August isn’t good. But the amount is manageable; together, showing our love for St. John’s and all it does, we can catch up. Please send your contributions via mail or place them in the secure box at the church’s rear entrance. Our 2020 commitment to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) is \$46,460, or about \$3,872 a month. June contributions totaled \$3,359. YTD we are about 6% behind our pledged giving pace to OCWM. While catching up by yearend is good, the money is needed and spent throughout the year. Please continue to support this work; its importance is increased by the pandemic. Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with our Cotreasurers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dr. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor:

Since the pandemic began, there have been 17 Pastor’s Updates and one paper mailing. There have been eight deaths since the pandemic began. It has been very difficult for the families. Chriss Bodde and John Hendricks have been involved in keeping St. John’s updated.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

The Take-Home Vacation Bible School program was a success. Fifty boxes were claimed.

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The Hogan baptism took place in the backyard of the Hogan home. The two confirmands will meet with Rev. Sue and Pastor Addie in August to wrap up their year.

David Furniss, Minister of Music:

Preparing the worship services with Rev. Sue and Pastor Addie have been expanded to include singing in services. Recordings are also being used, which come from concerts, chancel choir, and handbell choir. Wednesday noon chimes are a success and will continue.

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:

Learning from David continues. Andrew is pursuing his second master’s degree. Plans for virtual meetings and rehearsals are in progress.

**Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children
and Youth:**

Plans for children’s choir are being discussed with Andrew.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

Volunteers are helping with first-class mailings and Heralds. Local churches are combining resources to assist families in need in the community.

Board Reports:

Elders

- The drive-by for Sue’s 40th anniversary was a success.
- A new banner will be made for outside St. John’s building, most likely Richardson Avenue, to replace the current banner.
- A permanent sign (with changeable words) will be placed in Anchor House lot.

Educators

- Take-out VBS was a success.
- John Hendricks will assist with Facebook virtual 2020 National Youth Event.
- Educators will be discussing ideas for Celebration Sunday.

Deacons

- June picnic was canceled. September 20 date at Plains Mennonite church is on hold.
- The basket raffle has been postponed.

Trustees

- Anchor House parking lot resurface project has begun.
- An estimate for paver walkways and reseeding will be discussed.
- Grants have been requested to renovate the four bathrooms in the church building.

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Old Business:Creation Justice

The name will be changed to Creation Stewards and a new covenant statement will be created.

Stained Glass Window Brochure

The brochure will be available soon. It was suggested a voluntary donation be made for a copy.

New Business:Church Building Reopening

Some local churches in the area (Trinity Lutheran, First Baptist) are reopening. First Baptist has a limit of 50 people at one weekly service. Members must call or email for reservations. Attendance is taken and worshipers must arrive 15 minutes early. A clear document of what was expected was sent to those who attend. It was discussed that this may be anxiety producing to those who attend. There is no opening date yet for St. John's while planning continues for the safety of the congregation. When St. John's is open, the website and Facebook pages will be kept up to date for any visitors so they are aware of expectations when entering the building.

"I Agree" Pledge

A small group created a pledge with statements of procedures and protocols when entering the church building. It was suggested to add a printed name, phone number, email, and date to the pledge. Along with attendance, this can be used for contact tracing in the event it is required. This is a pledge for worship, not small groups; these will have a separate document. We discussed placing an easel with a reminder upon entry to the sanctuary and signs on hand-sanitizer stands. Ushers will address any walk-ins with the pledge.

OCWM Donation

Rev. Sue serves on the Conference Personnel Committee. Churches struggling to meet their OCWM commitments, which in turn financially affects the Penn Southeast Conference. PSEC applied for PPP (Paycheck Protection Program), which ended July 31, 2020, with no replacement forthcoming. Staff cuts and reduction of hours may follow.

The GEM Fund received generous donations for Rev. Sue's 40th Anniversary celebration. Rev. Sue suggested St. John's make a one-time gift of \$2,000 from GEM Fund to PSEC of UCC. This proposal was moved and seconded and will be emailed to all Council members for their vote.

Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	June 2020	Jan—June 2020
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	32,741.00	199,009.44
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	936.00
Flowers	75.00	1,255.00
Rental Income	0.00	16,200.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	1,238.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	142.44	769.26
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	1.96	16.93
Total Income	32,960.40	219,424.63
Gross Income	32,960.40	219,424.63
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	34,139.76	205,102.56
Elders Expenses	293.62	1,955.95
Deacons Expenses	0.00	2,218.13
Educators Expenses	415.48	422.64
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,790.22	8,746.54
Building Operation Expenses	2,437.58	27,370.37
Operating Expenses	4,070.68	27,576.69
Miscellaneous Expenses	50.50	772.72
Total Expense	43,217.84	274,165.60
Net Ordinary Income	-10,257.44	-54,740.97
Budgeted Transfers From Investment	7,817.33	46,903.98
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfer:	-2,440.11	-7,836.99
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	0.00	790.00
Benevolence Offerings	5,684.00	29,351.02
Special Accounts	10,565.00	38,882.68
Soup Sales	0.00	1,298.00
Total Other Income	16,249.00	70,321.70
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	3,561.00	34,742.92
Special Fund Expenditures	0.00	16,794.17
Alternative Gift Market	18.01	44.47
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	0.00	650.00
Total Other Expense	3,579.01	52,231.56
Net Other Income	12,669.99	18,090.14
Net Income	2,412.55	-36,650.83
Net Income Plus Transfers	-27.56	10,253.15



The Basket Raffle Is Happening!

Here are the dates:

ASAP, send basket theme to Judy Johnston, twostitches@comcast.net, and/or Barb MacMullen, babawawa43@gmail.com.

August 31: All baskets must be finished and brought to the Church Office. Please have them filled with a list of what's in the basket. Please do not wrap in advance. Bring a large cellophane bag that we can put your basket in along with ribbon or a tie. John Hendrix will be photographing them and the cellophane casts too much of a glare.

September 9 and **September 16**, during the chime services at noon, the baskets will be on display in the rear parking area and tickets will be on sale.

September 20, Celebration Sunday, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, along with other wonderful events, the baskets will be on display in the Anchor House area where tickets will be on sale again. The drawing of the winners will be done by very special people and the winners will be called. Help setting up the tent Wednesday morning, September 9, and taking it down Wednesday, September 16, after the chime service would be appreciated, as well as help setting it up and breaking down at Anchor House on Sunday, September 20. We will also need some help schlepping the baskets in and out of the church. If you are able and willing, please contact Barb 215.527.9596 (babawawa43@gmail.com) or Judy 215.896.9381 (twostitches@comcast.net).



Monday, August 10, 2020
Meeting held with Council Board Chairs and COVID-19 Planning Group Members
**** All information for reports has been received via email ****

Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor, Cotreasurers:

July was a poor month for St. John's financially. Including the planned transfer from our investments, our July income of \$28,275 fell well short of our expenses of \$43,512. Expenses were within budget but our tithes and offerings in July were the least of any month this year.

Having entered July behind year-to-date (YTD), we are now \$21,126 (or 6.7%) behind YTD. Being this far behind YTD as we enter another "slow" summer month isn't good. Perhaps the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is now affecting our church. Please keep getting your contributions in via mail or into the secure box at the rear of the church. If you can give a bit extra, it is needed to assure that the work of St. John's continues unabated. July contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) totaled \$2,922, the least in any month this year. YTD we are about 8.5% behind our pledge to OCWM. This money is needed and spent throughout the year. Please continue to support this work; its importance is increased by the pandemic.

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

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dr. Sue Bertollette, Senior Pastor:

As planned, the paper mailing, which included the revised "I Agree" document we are asking folks to embrace as we look toward eventually gathering in the Sanctuary again, went out on July 23, and we have resumed mailing the biweekly Herald.

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The Chess Club and Yoga have inquired about returning for weekly meetings. At our request, each group has provided a detailed list of safeguards for those who attend, and they have been made aware of our requirements regarding which rooms may and may not be used, where persons are and are not permitted to go, etc.

Pat Rieker connected with all the United Adult Sunday School class members and determined that folks are not yet ready to return to the building. I have been in touch with folks about the possibility of having a Fall Bible Study for five evenings in October and November, using the Zoom format, and there seems to be a fair amount of interest in doing this. I welcome suggestions for topics, books, or questions to be addressed.

The Stewardship Committee met outdoors in July. The theme for the upcoming covenant commitment campaign is: Journeying in Faith—Through Thick and Thin. The front page of the October Enlightener will provide more details about how the campaign will be conducted this year.

I continue to stay connected with our St. John's family through phone calls, email, and messaging, and continue to respond to requests to officiate graveside services and baptisms. An outdoor baptism in St. John's labyrinth has been scheduled for September 20 at 10:00 AM.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

Though there is so much that still remains unknown about the future of in-person worship here at St. John's, I felt it was important to let parents and faithful volunteers in on what we *do* know. I recently sent out a letter (found in both the Herald and on our website and Facebook page) explaining that when we return, for the safety of our children, their families, and all of our members, we will not have our Junior Church or Nursery ministries. Families will need to stay together during our time of worship. I am working with Mary Billy and also engaging Rev. Kim Stryjak to offer some ministry experience and help as I look forward to our adaptation of "Sunday School." More information will be communicated about that in the weeks ahead.

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We have a date for our Celebration Sunday and I am working with Educators to choose an object to hand out that will communicate our theme for the year. My plan is to create a take-home bag that would include that object, a personal letter, a back-to-school blessing, and some weeks of children's bulletins.

We are still working with our two Confirmands and their families to plan our socially distanced retreat, with the hopes that they might be officially confirmed this fall.

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:

Plans are being made for ensembles to safely rehearse this autumn. Rehearsals will combine virtual and in-person meetings, with each ensemble operating in a unique manner. Ensembles are being contacted to begin conversations as to how and when we will meet and rehearse.

Music in worship services continues to be led by organ and two to four vocalists, with anthems consisting of a combination of in-person piano/organ music and prerecorded pieces from St. John's ensembles.

Wednesday Noon Chime Concerts will continue, with each concert having a theme.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

Abbie continues to meet with Andrew and Pastor Addie to work on plans for how to meet and what can be offered to children in the fall.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

With the publication of the Enlightener and Herald, volunteers are once again entering the building. We keep the number to a minimum and take precautions. Three grocery/gas cards were provided to families since July 1.

Board Reports:

Elders

- Elders continue to think of suggestions for the Banner and Message Board, which will communicate who we are as a church and what the church means to us.
- Elders are working on a theme for the basket raffle.

Educators

- Celebration Sunday is September 20. Drive-by pickup will be from 11:30 AM. to 1:30 PM.
- Educators will be collecting items for the basket raffle.

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Deacons

- Baskets for the basket raffle will be displayed twice at Wednesday chimes in September and on one Sunday in September. More details will be in the Herald.

Trustees

- Paving is complete on the Anchor Lot. Leroy has gotten quotes for two walkways from the new lot, a bench, a sign for messages, handrails for the steps, eight holly plants, and 45 yards of topsoil, for an estimated total of \$17,955.
- Montessori School is obtaining grants to remodel bathrooms in the building. If grants do not meet all costs, St. John's may need to pay the remaining amount to make sure all of St. John's needs are met.

Old Business:

The Survival Guide is ready and will be printed in the near future.

New Business:

Anchor House Paver/Landscape Bids

The expenditure of \$17,955 from the Capital Fund for improvements to the Anchor House lot was moved and seconded for approval. These improvements will allow for additional parking and access to the church. Some members have indicated a desire to make donations to help offset the expenses. The motion will be sent via email to all Council members for their vote.

Suspension of By-Laws Article VII (B) and (D)

It has become very cumbersome to conduct Church Council business when we are not able to meet in person. Votes taken via email have required a longer time to approve than desirable. Currently, Church Council is physically meeting only with Officers, Staff, and Board Chairs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the suspension of Article VII (B) and (D) of the St. John's Constitution and By-Laws until such time as Church Council is able to physically meet again as an entire body.

If this motion passes, any business requiring Council approval would be discussed by each Board Chair with their members, and then the smaller group would be authorized to approve motions by consensus. Otherwise, it would have to go to a full Council vote via email.

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Renew Community Request

Pastor Ben Pitzen from Renew Community requested use of St. John's parking lot to distribute curbside pickup hot meals to the community. Approximately 60 meals would be served on Saturday, September 5. Per St. John's protocol for groups they would need to wear masks and adhere to social distancing. By consensus, the group permitted Renew Community access to the parking lot.

Church Building Reopening/COVID Planning Team Meeting

A Zoom meeting will be held for the COVID Planning Team regarding church opening. Sue stated several churches in our area have resumed services. Rev. Sue will contact the pastor of Pleasantville UCC, which is similar to St. John's in size. Addie pays attention to churches of the same demographic as St. John's. None of this size are meeting yet.

Thanks to the efforts and commitment of Brian Hutchinson, fairly traded coffee, tea, and chocolate will continue to be available for purchase each month. Even though we are not meeting in person at St. John's Brian invites you to email him at brianhutch@live.com or send him a message via Facebook to let him know what you would like to purchase. He will prepare and package your order, let you know the total cost, and you will be able to pick up your order on the third Sunday of the month between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM in the rear courtyard of the church, near the ramp. No monies will be exchanged at that time, and Brian will bring your order directly to you in your car (curbside pickup at its best!). Checks should be made out to St. John's, with "Fairly Traded Items" on the MEMO line, and placed in the locked mailbox at the top of the ramp by the back door of the church, or mailed to the church.

September 20th is just around the corner, so be in touch with Brian if you would like to purchase fairly traded goodies this month!



Were You There?



Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	July 2020	Jan—July 2020
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	22,154.00	221,163.44
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	936.00
Flowers	185.00	1,440.00
Rental Income	0.00	16,200.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	1,238.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	45.00	814.26
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	.93	17.86
Total Income	28,274.93	247,699.56
Gross Income	28,274.93	247,699.56
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	37,106.98	242,209.54
Elders Expenses	0.00	1,955.95
Deacons Expenses	0.00	2,218.13
Educators Expenses	11.65	434.29
Trustees/Building Expenses	121.24	8,867.78
Building Operation Expenses	2,723.72	30,094.09
Operating Expenses	3,446.50	31,003.19
Miscellaneous Expenses	101.44	874.16
Total Expense	43,511.53	317,657.13
Net Ordinary Income	-15,236.60	-69,957.57
Budgeted Transfers From Investment	1,927.33	48,831.31
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-13,309.27	-21,126.26
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	0.00	790.00
Benevolence Offerings	3,007.00	32,358.02
Special Accounts	4,841.00	43,723.68
Soup Sales	0.00	1,298.00
Total Other Income	7,848.00	78,169.70
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	6,107.00	40,849.92
Special Fund Expenditures	2,425.00	19,219.17
Alternative Gift Market	0.00	44.47
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	0.00	650.00
Immediate-Needs Expense	7,095.00	7,095.00
Total Other Expense	15,627.00	67,858.56
Net Other Income	-7,779.00	10,311.14
Net Income	-23,015.60	-59,646.43
Net Income Plus Transfers	-21,088.27	-10,815.12

Thirty Years Ago: The Junior/Senior High Youth group, Genesis, held a Battle of the Sexes, testing their skills with water balloons, raw eggs, bubble gum, pie eating, and numerous relays.

Twenty-five Years Ago: The Ventures, a choral group for the “chronologically experienced,” gathered at Fernbrook Center to “Sing to God.”

Twenty Years Ago: A parent/child playgroup was initiated on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM by Frances (Crowe) Morris, the Program Coordinator of the Marc Early Intervention Program.

Fifteen Years Ago: Children and their parents were invited to attend an open house for the Enrichment Program, a multifaceted activity held on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

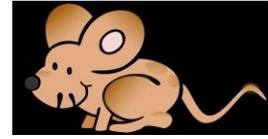
Ten Years Ago: On September 12, Celebration Sunday, the courtyard adjacent to the ramp entry to the church with the memorial pavers, was dedicated.

Five Years Ago: The annual UCC Widening the Welcome conference, which addresses concerns and issues around disabilities, mental health, and cognitive/developmental disabilities, was held in Hartford, Connecticut.

One Year Ago: An excerpt from Rev. Sue’s introduction to the September 2019 *Enlightener*: *If there is to be any hope for peace in our time, we must be willing to give up the need to be separate and superior, along with the need to create outsiders, forever pitting “us” against “them.” Unless we are willing to change together, we will be forever torn apart by conflict.* These words are especially meaningful in our polarized times.



News from the Pews



Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for September 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 listing is \$25.

September 6

In memory of Donald Gibson Sr.'s
September 6th birthday from Donna Wardle
and family

In memory of Helen Huckins's September
11th birthday and Mary Decker's September
13th birthday from Edna Decker

In honor of Sandy and Bob Taylor's
September 11th wedding anniversary

September 13

Remembering with love, Bill Rogers and
other family loved ones from the
MacKinstry/Rogers family

In memory of Ruth Ekberg from her
daughter, Sandy, and Scott Brown

September 20

In memory of Bob Kinsey's September 22nd
birthday from his wife, Ruth

September 27 **Gold Star Mother's Day 2020**

In honor of Gold Star Mother's Day from
Jean Roshong

In memory of son Ted Smith's October 1st
birthday from Judy Baumgartner

In memory of John Burkholder's Oct. 2nd
birthday from his daughter, Judy, and Alan
Johnston and family

In memory of Julia G. Kriebel's October 3rd
birthday from her family

Even though the pews at St. John's have been empty for several months, due to the pandemic, this little church mouse has not been lonely, especially in recent weeks. Staff members are back in the building, Wednesday noon chime concerts draw a crowd of folks outdoors on the church property, and small groups have resumed meeting with attendees masked and safely distanced from one another. Even I have a variety of masks to keep me and others safe as I scurry about the building and grounds these days. My only lament is that I have not found many tasty crumbs left behind lately, because food is not being served anywhere in the building at St. John's, so I must fend for myself!

I am looking forward to the month ahead as celebrations and activities are planned—granted, looking a bit different than they usually do, but celebrations and activities, nonetheless. If you have not already marked your calendar, make sure you have **Sunday, September 20** on your radar. On that Sunday, between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM, we will be celebrating David Furniss's 33 years as St. John's Minister of Music. This will be an outdoor event, with an opportunity to greet David in the meditation garden/labyrinth area of the church property. At the same time, in the paver courtyard, Pastor Addie and the Educators will be handing out packets of goodies for children and symbols for everyone to remind them of our theme for the coming year: "Journeying in Faith Through Thick and Thin."

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Also happening on that Celebration Sunday will be a display of the two dozen baskets that have been created for this year's basket raffle. They will be displayed on the former Anchor House lot across Richardson Avenue from the church. The drawing of winners will take place after the celebration, and all winners will be notified by phone. This little church mouse has already checked out some of the baskets and I know exactly where I am going to put my tickets.

And finally, the annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, September 27, at 1:00 PM, in the mediation garden/labyrinth area of the church property. I look forward to this every year and am especially eager to meet Bishop, our new Minister of Music, Andrew Paulson's, puppy. I hope she likes church mice! Looking forward to seeing you soon and, not to worry, I will be able to recognize you with your mask on. 😊

AMOS

SAVE THE DATE FOR A CELEBRATION



On September 20th, we will be celebrating David Furniss and his 33 years of excellent music ministry at St. John's.

This will be a time for the congregation to come and greet David, (socially distanced, of course), and show their appreciation. More details to follow in the Herald.

So save the date!

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
~Mother Teresa

Articles Due for October Issue Deadline: September 13

Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next Enlightener issue (if feasible):

- ⌘ World Communion Sunday
- ⌘ Neighbors in Need Offering
- ⌘ Manna Sunday
- ⌘ Fall Bible Study
- ⌘ Prayer Shawl Sunday

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, Pennsylvania 19446.
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A Note from The Music Department

Hello! It is an absolute joy to greet you as St. John's Minister of Music! While I certainly did not imagine starting my time at St. John's during a pandemic, I still could not be more excited to make music and worship with you. As we navigate this unknown situation of masks and social distancing, I look forward to creating unique and creative ways to continue making a joyful noise to the Lord! One of these ways will be on Celebration Sunday -- be on the lookout for a special virtual choir anthem as we kickoff the fall! Even though this is indeed a strange time, let's connect! Please come to a Wednesday Noon Chime Concert, send me an email at andrew@st-johns-ucc.org, or message me on Facebook. Thanks for welcoming me, my wife Rachel, and our puppy Bishop into this motley crew! -Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

St John's Music Ministry

How Can I Keep from Singing? Making Music During a Global Pandemic

St. John's Music Ministry will keep on singing (and strumming and ringing and playing) during the pandemic – nothing is canceled!

While ensembles will not be meeting in their normal manner this fall, there are still ways for you to participate in St. John's Music Ministry. However you make music, there is a spot for you!

Please contact Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music, if you would like to participate in an ensemble in this most unusual time (and beyond)! Know that all precautions are in place to safely rehearse and make music. Your safety is paramount as we continue St. John's Music Ministry during this strange time.

Vocal Ensembles

Chancel Choir: Four-part singing

Chancel Choir Friends: Joins the Chancel Choir for seasonal singing opportunities

United Voices: Unison and two-part singing.

Children's Choir: Singing for children between kindergarten and sixth grade

Instrumental Ensembles

St. John's United Ringers

St. John's Wind Ensembles

St. John's Brass

St. John's Dixieland Band

The Uke-arists – Ukulele Ensemble

Ensembles will be rehearsing in new and different ways, as the pandemic impacts each ensemble uniquely. Ensembles will meet in a combination of virtual and physical rehearsals, all with a great amount of flexibility as the pandemic changes and evolves.

While every effort will be made for ensembles to rehearse at their usual dates/times, the given situation may result in ensembles rehearsing on different dates/times than in previous years. If you are currently in an ensemble, you will have already received an email beginning the discussion as to how and when each ensemble will meet. At the time of printing, rehearsal dates/times have not been determined. As rehearsal dates/times are decided, the information will be communicated to the congregation as quickly as possible.



The 2020-2021 St. John's Artist Series will certainly be like no other! Please watch for upcoming communication as to what the series will bring. Know that even though we cannot currently meet in person, St. John's Artist Series will continue in a safe manner! Please consider supporting St. John's Artist Series as a Patron at one of the following levels:

Benefactor (\$200+) Sponsor (\$100-199) Donor (\$50-99) Friend (\$25-49)

Name as you would like it to appear in the Artist Series Programs _____

