



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

Enlightener

October 2021 Vol. XLI, No. 08

REMEMBER. SEEK. GROW.

As the global pandemic brought things to a grinding halt in March of 2020, we turned to the theme we had chosen months earlier ~ a theme that proved to be more appropriate than we ever imagined ~ and clutched onto it for dear life: *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow*. Persevering amid the pandemic, the theme chosen for this past year sought to capture the spirit of the challenging times we were navigating together: *Journeying in Faith Through Thick and Thin*. While not yet out of the dark, we sought to be both reflective and hopeful as this year's theme was identified, using the hymn "*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*" to inspire our choice of three words: **Remember. Seek. Grow.**

At its best, remembering invites us to think back over all we have been through. As we marvel at what we were able to endure together, with God's help, and reflect on the many creative ways we discovered to keep on keeping on, we also mourn loved ones lost and milestones marked in ways that left us wanting. We remember what we learned about the people and things in our lives that truly mattered and let go of what did not.

Resisting the temptation to dwell in the past, however, we are now called as a faith community to seek new ways of moving forward, continuing to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to our care. We carry with us that which we have learned from the heart-wrenching challenges of recent months, and with grace and hope, commit ourselves anew to growing in ways that will strengthen our relationship with God, our community and those we have been called to serve.

Doing so requires your support, which is what we are inviting you to consider at this time as you fill out the attached Covenant Commitment Card after giving prayerful thought to what your commitment will be. On **Stewardship Sunday, November 14**, you will be invited to present your commitment card during worship as we dedicate the morning's offering, or you may return your commitment card to the church anytime between now and then. Your generosity has sustained us during one of the most challenging times St. John's has ever faced. May your continued generosity enable us to grow in ways that enable God's dream for us to come true.

St. John's Stewardship Committee

Baron Methlie, Chair
Andy Taylor
Bob Taylor

Sumiko Boorcom
Judy Mayo
Sally Jarinko

Stephen D. Butz
Rev. Sue



**ARTICLES DUE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 10**

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

- ◇ Stewardship Sunday
- ◇ Alternative Gift Market
- ◇ All Saints' 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.

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Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of St. John's who passed away recently: Ted Kasander, Thomas L. Walleisa, and Grace Freeman, aunt of Kay Fiala.

**Philadelphia AGO Chapter Tuesday Noon Recitals
November 2021, St. John's Sanctuary**

Come and hear a live organ recital from a local organist every Tuesday at Noon in November at St. John's!

Our featured organists are Jeffrey Fowler, Vince Ryan, Kevin Freaney, Mib Campbell, and Michael Krentz.

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 plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room.

Leave the plastic liners in the brass vases, they belong to the florist. 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.

October 3	Marcia Stacy
October 10	Amy Faga
October 17	Lisa Thim
October 24	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
October 31	Melody Bergey

Council News



Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor, Cotreasurers:

Our August income fell short of our expenses by about \$10,000. However, entering August we were about \$10,000 ahead year-to-date. As a result, YTD our income approximately matches our expenses. So, a notably good YTD, even in the face of the ongoing pandemic and the disruption of our normal worship and activities.

Our 2021 OCWM contributions in August totaled \$3,073. Although a bit short, YTD we remain well ahead of the pace needed to meet our 2021 commitment.

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

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dr. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor:

Two-worship-service format began on Sunday, September 12, with 127 people total at both services.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

October Carry-Out Connection boxes will be ready at the end of September for the first lesson in October.

Confirmation of the students from last year will take place on October 24. A retreat will be held on October 17.

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:

Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir have begun weekly rehearsals in the sanctuary. The Handbell Choir will play once a month, while Chancel Choir will sing twice a month. It is hoped to have more ensembles when safely able to do so.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

Children's Choir programs are in discussion with Andrew to keep children safe, since most cannot be vaccinated.

[continued at right]

Under consideration is an in-person gathering during the Sunday School hour (9-10 AM) if it can be done safely. A Zoom option is still being considered for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings with a Sunday get-together. It is hoped this can begin at the end of October.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

Three families have been helped with rent, gas, and groceries totaling \$1,100.

Board Reports:

Deacons

- o Church Picnic at Plains Mennonite Church begins at 12:00 PM. Deacons will provide hot dogs and hamburgers along with condiments. People attending are encouraged to bring their own chairs, side dishes, and utensils. You can sign up on Facebook or by calling the church office. Those attending are being asked to mask.
- o Basket drawing will be held at the picnic. Tickets will be sold after the 8:00 AM service, the 10:15 AM service, and at the picnic. The baskets will remain at St. John's, with only photos at the picnic.

Educators

- o Collection for goodie boxes is ongoing. Any items need to be at St. John's by October 3.
- o Refreshments for the confirmation retreat on October 17 and the Confirmation Parent Meeting are planned.

Elders

- o August attendance numbers were steady.
- o Prayers are requested for Elder Ted Kasander and his family.

Trustees

- o Flooding from Hurricane Ida caused water damage to the floor in the Assembly Hall. It is currently being dried out. Trustees and Leroy are planning to walk around the building to identify possible areas that may need attention to prevent further damage.
- o Pointing on the exterior walls on the Sunday School building facing Main Street needs to be completed to maintain integrity. Trustees will set up a program to hopefully begin in the spring.

Alternative Gift Market

Coming in November...

St. John's 18th Annual Alternative Gift Market

This year's Market will be virtual again and will follow the model of last year's event. It will start on Sunday, November 21, and end on Monday, December 6. As before, the charities will be posted on St. John's website a few weeks before the event, and the shopping list will be available on the website and in the November Enlightener. At the Market you can find gifts for coworkers, teachers, neighbors, friends, and family members, so please be sure to visit the Alternative Gift Market when you shop for holiday gifts!



Our Fall Bible Study will begin on October 20 and conclude on November 17: five Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 PM. We will be focusing on the important connection between our mental health and our spiritual health and will be using Sarah Griffith Lund's book *Blessed Are the Crazy* to guide our conversation. Guest speakers will also be involved. We hope to provide a format that will allow persons to attend in person, as well as to participate from the safety of their homes via Zoom. More details to come. Pastor Sue will have copies of Sarah Lund's book available for purchase in early October.

FINANCES		
Summary of August and Year-to-Date Income and Expense	August 2021	January–August 2021
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Counters Discrepancies	0.00	–30.00
Current Tithes/Offerings	29,497.11	272,721.76
Event Income/Fundraisers	432.00	1,602.00
Flowers	105.00	1,810.00
Investment Income	0.00	6,327.81
Rental Income	0.00	20,600.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	1,880.00
Youth Group	50.00	1,050.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	14.00	1,807.17
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	0.97	7.66
Total Income	30,099.08	307,776.40
Gross Income	30,099.08	307,776.40
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	34,583.12	277,277.23
Elders Expenses	165.00	1,532.55
Deacons Expenses	400.00	1,913.76
Educators Expenses	766.36	5,704.63
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,926.72	19,965.12
Building Operation Expenses	1,999.89	35,826.86
Operating Expenses	3,381.38	32,362.63
Miscellaneous Expenses	54.60	1,258.59
Total Expense	43,277.07	375,841.37
Net Ordinary Income	–13,177.99	–68,064.97
Budgeted Transfers From Investment	3,229.59	67,440.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	–9,898.40	–624.14
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	0.00	925.00
Benevolence Offerings	3,486.00	49,670.04
Special Accounts	1,937.00	30,022.91
Immediate-Needs Income	110.00	15,585.00
Total Other Income	5,533.00	96,202.95
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	0.00	729.84
Benevolence Disbursements	4,476.00	61,664.31
Special Fund Expenditures	2,289.25	30,448.00
Immediate-Needs Expense	0.00	15,631.00
Total Other Expense	6,765.25	108,473.15
Net Other Income	–1,232.25	–12,270.20
Net Income	–14,410.24	–80,335.17
Net Income Plus Transfers	–11,180.65	–12,894.34



News From The Pews

This little church mouse feels especially good as I look forward to the month of October, having experienced the annual Blessing of the Animals on the last Sunday of September and having seen so many of my furry friends. Thankfully the cats were all safely tucked away inside their crates!

Even though many things are still being impacted by the global pandemic, it is wonderful having so many of you back in the pews on Sunday morning and so many familiar activities taking place, even if they do look a bit different. If you have not yet ventured back for in-person worship, let me remind you that we have resumed having two services on Sunday morning: at 8:00 AM for the early birds and at 10:15 AM for those who prefer a later time for worship. Our Adult Sunday School classes have resumed at 9:00 AM, and our children's Sunday School will continue to provide Carryout Connection boxes of activities and lessons for each week, with occasional in-person gatherings as circumstances allow. This little church mouse loves doing the projects Pastor Addie and Pastor Kim have created!

Something I am really looking forward to is the Confirmation Class Retreat on Sunday afternoon, October 17, when bread baking in the church kitchen will take place under the watchful eye and careful supervision of Judy Johnston (there are always crumbs for me to enjoy!). Judy does such a wonderful job of working with St. John's confirmands as they prepare for Confirmation, which this year will take place on Sunday, October 24. No,

October is not when Confirmation is usually celebrated, but then, this has not been a "usual" year. The five members of this year's class began meeting virtually last fall. In the spring they gathered in person for the first time, masked and safely distanced, took a break during the summer, and are now on their way to becoming confirmed. Our 2021–2022 class will start in November, so: calling all 7th graders and their families. You will be receiving information about plans for upcoming classes, and I am hoping you will choose to be part of this fun and important learning opportunity.

Enough for now. Time to venture out to the labyrinth and meditation garden to enjoy the beautiful fall weather. Hope to see you soon as we all find ways to safely connect in the days ahead!

AMOS

Some time ago a friend of mine was volunteering at a food bank. A mom asked her for a box of cake mix for her daughter's birthday. That story stayed in my mind, and recently I combined it with other stories I had heard, to come up with the idea of a "Birthday Cake Bag." I proposed the idea to Manna on Main Street, and they liked it. So that no one would be without a cake on their birthday, I suggested that, on our birthday, we could each put together a Birthday Cake Bag consisting of a cake mix, a tub of icing, some birthday candles, sprinkles, and a disposable baking pan—possibly including a birthday card and a small gift. You could decorate your Birthday Cake Bag in any way you like or maybe have your child or grandchild decorate it. Then bring it to church and place it with the food being donated to Manna. If you have already celebrated this year's birthday, you could still make up a bag to give Manna a head start on Birthday Cake Bags!



Ginny Wilkinson

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago:

October 13 was the grand opening of St. John's Video Lending Library.



Twenty-five Years Ago: A request was in the for volunteers to sew aprons for Wyncote residents and Christmas stockings for Graterford Prison (now SCI Phoenix) inmates.

Twenty Years Ago: The United Church of Christ provided \$10,000 to help victims of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Fifteen Years Ago: Planning began for Phase 2 of the Membership Directory, including a new photo section.

Ten Years Ago: In 11 days in October the UCC collected more than 1 million items of healthful food for local food banks, gathered online contributions of \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, and wrote more than 11,111 letters to Congress asking for reform to US foreign assistance to more effectively benefit hungry and poor people worldwide.

Five Years Ago: The congregation collected empty medicine bottles for Dr. Clarence Freed to use in his mission to Haiti; the most important goal being to eradicate the parasites that infect much of Haiti's population.

One Year Ago: The first concert in the 2020–2021 St. John's Artist Series was a virtual presentation of solo music for organ and piano by Andrew Paulson.

Once again, our Basket Raffle was a success! Thanks to all the groups and families who contributed 33 beautiful baskets. The St. John's wonderfully Motley Crew supported the raffle in a big way by purchasing tickets each week. All the proceeds go to projects needed in the church. The winners are:

The Puzzler	Don Atkiss
Sweet Treat of the Month	Ginny Wilkinson
Delightful Trifle	JoAnn Giancoli
Hot Diggity Dog	Judy Haiges
It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere	Ginny Wilkinson
Everything Trader Joe's	Judy Reitz
Drink Your Fruits and Veggies	Ginny Wilkinson
Hot Date on Main Street	Judy Koenig
Feeling Lucky?	Alan Johnston
Rise & Shine! It's Breakfast Time	Emily Donahue
Poppin' Fun	Judy Reitz
Trick or Liquor	Beth Ann Leshinski
A Break at the Lake	Marge Jewell
Clean Basket	Rev Sue
Walk This Way	Amy Faga
Popcorn Party	Sally Jarinko
Margaritaville	Constance May
Back to Nature	Mary Billy
A Kid's Christmas	Linda Horst
Get Out & Have Some Fun	Jen Gilbert
Book Club Luncheon	Bob Fritz
Our Feathered Friends	Jamie Morris
Make Your Own Greeting Card	Shelley Longcoy
Souper Suppers	Jeane Fritz
Desktop PC	Michael Ruder
Gluten-Free Snack Basket	Leroy Horst
Memories of Fun Times	Gwen Rivett
Just Chillin'	Jeane Fritz
I Scream! You Scream!	Bob Fritz
Christmas Fun	Fran Crowe
Rev Sue's Favorite Things	Amy Faga
Comfy Cottage Life	Judy Leslie
Wine Lovers	Constance May

Chancel Flower Donations

October 3: World
Communion Sunday
In memory of Julia G.
Krieble's October 3rd
birthday from her
family



In memory of loved ones from Doris Latta
In memory of Madeline Bruen from her son,
Mark, and Grace, Ben, and Allison Bruen

October 10

In memory of Richard Drissel's October 16th
birthday from S. Ronald and Joyce Erb
In memory of Bob, Evelyn, and Harry Summers
from Dan and Joan Summers Gallagher and the
Cindy Dimmig and Mitchell Miller families
In memory of George Ruth from Chriss Ruth
Bodde and family
In memory of Stewart and Louise Wells from
Kathleen Wells and family

October 31

In honor of Kelsey Weber's birthday from her
parents, Walt and Bonnie



CROP Hunger Walk Goes Virtual...Again

The North Penn/Lansdale CROP Hunger Walk will be virtual again this year due to the continuing threat of COVID. Participants will walk individually to raise money to fight hunger and poverty. Twenty five percent of the funds raised will be returned to our community to support local hunger fighting efforts through Manna on Main Street.

We hope you'll join us virtually for the CROP Walk by walking 5 miles at a location of your choice on **Sunday, October 10- Saturday, October 16** (World Food Day). Why do we walk? We walk as a reminder that people in need across the world walk many miles every day to obtain food and drinking water.

Donations may be made online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/lansdalepa>. Our team name is St. John's United Church of Christ. You may also donate by check or money order (no cash) payable to **CWS/CROP** (with memo: **North Penn/Lansdale CROP Hunger Walk**). Mail to: Manna on Main Street, 606 E. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

Please participate, by walking and/or donating. Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.



Join us for the first in-person concert in over 21 months!

Music for Flute and Piano
Jocelyn Crosby, Flute
Doug Wimer, Piano

Sunday, November 14, 4pm
St. John's Sanctuary

Jocelyn Crosby, a flute soloist and freelance artist in the Lancaster region, will be presenting a thrilling live program featuring works by Theobald Boehm and Valerie Coleman. Ms. Crosby will be a performer for the 2021 international Galway Flute Festival, has subbed at the Fulton Theatre in their pit orchestra, and has performed with the popular local ensemble Vivace Live. Ms. Crosby is a twice graduate of Temple University, most recently having earned her Master of Music degree. Her teachers include Ms. Diana Morgan, Dr. Adeline Tomasone, Ms. Elleen Grycky, and Dr. Lynne Cooksey.

Upcoming Live Events in the 2021-2022 St. John's Artist Series
All events are subject to change.

December 12, 2021, 4pm – Christmas Concert
March 27, 2022, 4pm – Andrew Paulson, Piano, and John Pennington, Vibraphone
April 10, 2022, 4pm – Spring Concert

Patrons of the 2021-2022 St. John's Artist Series

Benefactor (\$200+)

Lynne Bartholomew, David Furniss, Bonnie and Ken Hales, Leroy and Linda Horst,
Bill and Judy Leslie, Dan and Lillian Panachyda

Sponsor (\$100-199)

Jean Fehnel, Ruth Moyer

Donor (\$50-99)

Nicole and Don Groff, John and Susan Hendricks

Your donations make wonderful music occur, even in such difficult times. If you are able, please consider becoming a patron at any of the following levels. Thank you for your support!

___Benefactor (\$200+) ___Sponsor (\$100-199) ___Donor (\$50-99) ___Friend (\$25-49)

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

Please write checks payable to St. John's UCC and note Artist Series in the Memo section. Thank you!