



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

Enlightener

April 2022 Vol. XLII, No. 04

Filled to the Brim

As winter turns to spring and June 15th, the date of my retirement, draws near, I find myself reflecting on my long tenure at St. John's. During these years, I have reminded you on numerous occasions that forty is a significant number when it appears in the pages of Scripture, as are the numbers three, seven and twelve. Three always references a brief period of time, while seven suggests a sense of completion and points to both the sabbath and sabbaticals. Twelve reminds us of the tribes of Israel and the first disciples (the original motley crew!), and forty speaks of a long and critical time in the life of an individual or group of people. In the story of Noah and the Ark, it rained for forty days and nights. The Hebrew people fleeing captivity in Egypt spent forty years wandering in the wilderness, and Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and struggling with how best to live out his calling as God's Son.

Having had the privilege of serving St. John's for over forty years ~ forty-two years to be exact ~ I can certainly attest to what a rich and significant time it has been for me and for my family. I have had the opportunity of baptizing and confirming both of our children at St. John's, officiating our son's wedding in the church's beautiful sanctuary, baptizing our two grandchildren, and celebrating numerous milestones along the way. I have lost track of the many little ones I have held in my arms and baptized, the young people on whose heads I have placed my hands as they were confirmed, the couples at whose weddings I have officiated, and the beloved members and friends of St. John's I have surrounded with prayer and blessing as they were laid to rest at the end of their lives here on earth.

In describing my ministry at St. John's, I have been intentional in identifying it as having been a privilege to serve you, because in every respect, it has been. You have invited me into your lives in the midst of both unspeakable tragedy and great joy, and have trusted me to hold in confidence painful pieces of your past. I have taken none of this for granted and give thanks daily for the ways in which you have enriched my life. As I look forward to what lies ahead, I am grateful beyond words for the countless ways that you have filled these past forty-two years to the brim with memories I will cherish, learnings I will always value and love that will continue to sustain me through thick and thin . . . all gifts without price!

Rev. Sue

APRIL 2022



From the Creation Stewards



In 1962 a marine biologist, Rachel Carson, wrote a book titled "Silent Spring" about the dangers of pesticides in the environment. It was an introduction to the effects of air and water pollution—the beginning of the impact of environmental pollutants. Unfortunately, before there was more follow-up to these dangers to the earth, Ms. Carson passed away from cancer two years later.

The mid to late 1800s was the beginning of the industrial revolution. It was a huge boost to our economy and mass production of goods. This mass production helped to create increased supplies for WWI and WWII. Unfortunately, these advances led to mass burning of fossil fuels. We blindly went ahead with these advances.

It would take decades to realize the effects of the dangers of this progress. Another aspect of this progress was the mass production of the automobile, further endangering the environment. The result was what we now know as Global Warming. Melting of polar icecaps and glaciers has increased water levels and created more floods. Another result was the severity of pollution leading to the near extinction of species of terrestrial and marine life.

Fortunately, in the past couple of decades, we have come to realize these dangers and started to create solutions. "Silent Spring" only marked the beginning of environmental destruction and ways to combat it. Climate change has led to strategies for climate control.

Most recently, books and documentaries have highlighted problems and solutions to this manmade destruction of our earth. Documentaries like "The 11th Hour," "An Inconvenient Truth," and "Before the Flood" have been the Paul Revere of this warning.

What are the causes and effects of Global Warming? Main contributors are the burning of fossil fuels, the destruction of rain forests, and greenhouse gases.

We must look for alternatives: solar and wind energy, electric vehicles, better recycling practices, and planting of vegetation and trees.

To be clear, we must increase the combatants of climate change. We are experiencing more destructive hurricanes, larger and more destructive fires, melting of the polar icecaps and glaciers, increasing water levels, and hotter temperatures.

The effects of climate change are mounting faster than scientists had predicted. According to the Intergovernmental *Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC), if the earth's temperatures increase more than 1.5 degrees Centigrade, the damage might be irreversible. The good news is we are better educated to meet these challenges.

Educate yourself and do your small part to change the course of climate change. Reach out to elected officials concerning this dire situation. Follow younger people such as Greta Thunberg to protect this earth we live on and our future generations. Steven Bossert

ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE

DEADLINE: APRIL 10

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

Palm Sunday Prayer Vigil

Maundy Thursday Good Friday

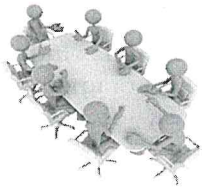
Holy Saturday Easter

Earth Day

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the Enlightenment bin in the Church Office (top bin) or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please

*The Enlightenment is published monthly except for July and August by St. John's United Church of Christ,
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call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237.



Notes from Council

Financial Report, Matt Carson:

February was another good month for St. John's. Our income of \$55,477.80 exceeded our

expenses, enabling us to stay above budget by 7.7% for the year. Thanks for the generosity of our members' continued donations as tithes and offerings.

Our 2022 commitment to "Our Church's Wider Mission" (OCWM) is \$48,272. February was another great month, bringing total donations to \$10,999 for the year.

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

PSEC Search and Call, Rev. Kevin McLemore:

Rev. McLemore, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call, explained the detailed search process to St. John's Council for the replacement of Rev. Sue. A Transition Team will place a short profile of St. John's on the Ministerial Opportunity Page of the UCC for the Interim Pastor. A detailed profile will be created for the Settled Pastor Search for the permanent hire. The Elders will lead the Search Committee, along with other church members. The process could take from 12 to 24 months.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dr. Sue Bertollette, Senior Pastor:

The Lenten Study began on March 9 in the Library. Everyone is welcome to join.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

Carry-Out Connection continues; the last month for this program will be May. Precautions are still being taken around unvaccinated children in the church. Children's Choir is masked around other children. The volunteer schedules are slowly being rebuilt. Bible School planning has begun.

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:

March looks to be an exciting time for St. John's music department. What a joy to sing in worship with no masks!

Ensembles are preparing for Holy Week and Easter services.

The Friends are joining the Chancel Choir in preparation for *Seven Last Words*, a modern setting of Christ's final moments during the Passion. This large choral work will be presented on Palm Sunday (April 10) at 4 PM.

A reminder that *Music for Piano, Organ, and Percussion*, the next Artist Series event, is at 4 PM on Sunday, March 27. Come hear Andrew Paulson and percussionist Dr. John Pennington in concert!

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

The Children's Choir added a new member last week. The choir is preparing music for the Easter sunrise service, as well as other Sundays in the spring.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

St. John's assisted with groceries (\$335), utilities (\$751), and rent (\$528) this past month. Volunteers will decorate the sanctuary for Palm Sunday; Deacons will decorate for Easter. AA will begin meeting at St. John's this April.

Board Reports:

Deacons

- o When Social Hour is ready to return, Deacons will discuss.

Educators

- o Goodie Boxes have been packed and will be mailed this week.

Elders

- o Total attendance for February was 472.

Trustees

- o Investigating replacing carpets in halls/stairs in school building. Trustees will discuss with Montessori for possible joint funding.
- o Regrading of some flower beds around the church will be completed before spring planting.

New Business:

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OCWM/GEM Ukraine support proposal

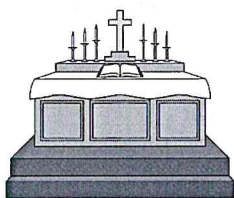
Dan Panachyda provided a list of charities, which will be published in the Herald week of March 13. Funds can also be donated through Global Ministries of the UCC, where they will be directed to Poland and Hungary for Ukraine aid support.

Council passed a motion to allocate \$3,000 from the GEM Fund to Ukraine Relief through the UCC with matching donations solicited from the congregation.

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago:

A Palm Sunday concert by Laura Anderson benefited Interfaith Community Services.



Twenty-five Years Ago: North Penn Association Women Ministries heard Pastor Wanda Craner present "Stories of Faith and Prayer" at First United Church of Christ in Quakertown.

Twenty Years Ago: Camp Mensch Mill requested applicants ages 18 and older for openings as counselors, lifeguards, program staff, and age-level coordinators.

Fifteen Years Ago: The Church Women United sing-along was held at Gwynedd Square Nursing Center. The women brought along prizes to be awarded for the residents' Bingo game.

Ten Years Ago: Members of St. John's joined walkers from Living Water UCC in Germantown in the Walk Against Hunger, which supports more than 100 food pantries, soup kitchens, and hunger-relief agencies in Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey.

Five Years Ago: St. John's Artist Series presented *A Chorus of "Alleluias"* by Bach, Mozart, Thompson, Giersch, and others.

One Year Ago: St. John's posted videos of the Holy Week services during the pandemic on its YouTube channel.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for April 2022. 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!



April 3

In memory of Ted Kasander's April 3rd birthday from St. John's Brass Ensemble
In memory of Charles A. Pool Jr.'s April 4th birthday from his daughter, Louella Trout
In memory of Martine Boorse's April 7th birthday from her husband, Richard
In memory of Robert and Madge Chandler; Marvin, James, and Maryetta Moyer; and Benjamin, Betty, and Helen A. Hammel from the LaVerne Moyer family and the Carol and Ben Hammel family
In memory of The Rev. Hugo and Mrs. Josephine Kellermeyer from their daughter, Lorene Ahrens

April 10

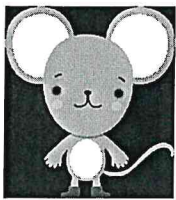
In memory of Carol Smith from Jim (Smith), Anne, and Dan
In memory of Dr. and Mrs. E. Willard Hartzell's April 16th wedding anniversary from their daughter, Dee Reedman, and family
In memory of Mary C. Fritz's April 16th birthday from her family

April 17

In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday from his wife, Jean, and family
In remembrance of the 82nd wedding anniversary of parents Grace and the late Pete Ehly, on April 20th, from their daughter, Dean
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

April 24

In memory of Betty Focht's April 24th birthday, from her family, Sally, Steve, and Eric Jarinko
In loving memory of Charles W. Lutter's April 29th birthday from his family
In memory of William Roberts from his wife, Nancy



News from the Pews

As I write to you this beautiful spring day, I am perched on the large rock at the center of St. John's labyrinth—one of my favorite spots to claim when the sun is shining and the

breeze is gentle. All around me, trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and the sound of children from the Lansdale Montessori School can be heard as they enjoy being outdoors on the playground alongside our church school building. Spring is, without question, one of this little church mouse's favorite times of year because of all that goes on in the life of the church. I have especially enjoyed the Lenten Study, as a full house of participants gathers in the Library each Wednesday evening during Lent to discuss Rachel Held Evans's book *Wholehearted Faith*. Speaking of books and the Library: as Rev. Sue prepares to retire, she has needed to find a home for many of the books that have filled the shelves in her study at St. John's for the past 42 years. Some of those books will be donated to Care and Share, some have already found a place in Rev. Sue's library at home, and still others have been carefully selected to be added to St. John's Library. Nicole Groff, who has been the church's faithful librarian for many years, spent time with Rev. Sue choosing books she thought St. John's members might find valuable to have within reach and that were both thought-provoking and enjoyable to read. So, if you haven't checked out the Library recently, you may just want to make time to do that one Sunday after church, or sometime during the week. You'll be glad you did!

Something I'm really looking forward to (also taking place in the Library) is the May 14 Women's Retreat, which will feature Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel as guest speaker as she offers a presentation focusing on the moving artwork of Holocaust survivor, Jacques Barosin. Barosin, who survived the Holocaust due to the heroism of French Christians, created a series of paintings portraying the life of Christ that years ago was used by the Evangelical and Reformed Church as part of its Sunday School curriculum. Martha will be sharing her book *Promise Kept with a Paintbrush*, at this presentation. More details to come next month!

Meanwhile, this little church mouse will be praying for you and looking forward to crossing paths with you as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

AMOS



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 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

2022

April 3	Sue & Mike Donahue
April 10	Melody Bergey
April 17	Sally & Steve Jarinko
April 24	Karen & Mark Methlie



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Al Sproule, neighbor of Sally and Don Atkiss, who passed away recently.

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	February 2022	Jan-Feb 2022
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	41,595.03	79,332.03
Flowers	455.00	855.00
Rental Income	3,050.00	6,100.00
Use-of-Building Income	50.00	,250.00
Misc. Unrestricted Income	509.23	511.23
Int. Income, Savings Accounts	1.00	2.08
Total Income	45,660.26	88,050.34
Gross Income	45,660.26	88,050.34
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,866.78	71,837.00
Deacons Expenses	367.50	717.50
Educators Expenses	168.46	168.46
Elders Expenses	194.01	244.21
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,734.41	1,857.29
Building Operation Expenses	7,673.68	3,456.22
Operating Expenses	6,422.71	1,485.47
Miscellaneous Expenses	170.96	170.96
Total Expense	52,598.51	99,937.11
Net Ordinary Income	-6,938.25	11,886.77
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	9,818.54	19,637.08
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	2,889.80	7,750.31
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	250.00	700.00
Benevolence Offerings	5,830.84	17,055.84
Special Accounts	4,014.84	11,529.11
Total Other Income	10,095.68	29,284.95
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	441.85	543.80
Benevolence Disbursements	0.00	21,312.50
Special Fund Expenditures	1,669.00	1,769.00
Total Other Expense	2,110.85	23,625.30
Net Other Income	7,984.83	5,659.65
Net Income	1,046.58	-6,227.12
Net Income Plus Transfers	0,865.04	13,409.98

*The greatest motivational act one
person can do for another is to
listen.*



~ Roy L. Moody

Please choose the way of peace. ... In the short term there may be winners and losers in this war that we all dread. But that never can, nor never will justify the suffering, pain and loss of life your weapons will cause.

~ Mother Teresa

2022 St. John's Address Directory

St. John's current pictorial directory was issued in 2016. Many addresses and phone numbers in that directory have changed, so we would like to publish a new address directory with current information. If you wish to be included in the address directory, please complete the form below and drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning, in the mailbox outside the ramp door, or in the office door mailbox. Forms will be available on the literature table in the Narthex. You may also email your information to the church office at office@st-johns-ucc.org. We hope to publish the 2022 address directory sometime in the summer. A pictorial directory will not be published until a new senior pastor is hired.

Please note, if you wish to be included in the address directory, you must submit a form or contact the church office.

Address Directory Form		
Name:		
Address:		
Email Address:		
Phone Numbers:	cell	
	landline	
	work (optional)	

ST. JOHN'S

Artist Series

Join us for the final event in the
2021-2022 St. John's Artist Series!

Seven Last Words by Michael John Trotta

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends

Andrew Paulson, Director and Pianist

Lyndsie Wilson, French Horn

Nick Masterson, Oboe

Susanna Loewy, Flute

4pm, Palm Sunday, April 10th, 2022

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

BENEFACTOR (\$200+)

Lynne Bartholomew, Sandy and Scott Brown, Mark and Grace Bruen, Suzanne and Don Franks,
A Friend, David Furniss, Bonnie and Ken Hales, Leroy and Linda Horst, Phil and Wendy Hunt,
Anne and Eric Kinsey, Bill and Judy Leslie, Mark and Karen Methlie,
Wendy and Rick O'Connor, Dan and Lillian Panachyda

SPONSOR (\$100-199)

Lorene Ahrens, Sue and Bob Bertollette, Marie B. Carota, The Faga Family, Jean Fehnel,
Debby and Steve Hendricks, Ruth Kinsey, Ruth Moyer, Cynthia Otherwise, Phyllis J. Patton,
Kim and Garen Paulson, Marcia Stacy, Robert and Sandra Taylor, Scott and Liz Vanderburg

DONOR (\$50-99)

Sue Clemens, Alyson and Daniel Faga, Nicole and Don Groff, John and Susan Hendricks,
Brandi and Ryan Kinsey, Cliff Kneipp, Mary Lynne and Ray Snyder, Vada Timko

FRIEND (\$25-49)

Joe Feher

Your support is music to our ears! Consider becoming a patron at any level!

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

Name as you would like it to appear in future programs: _____

Looking for past Artist Series recordings?

You can view events from the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 seasons on our YouTube Channel!

www.youtube.com/StJohnsUCCLansdalePA