



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

# **Enlightener**

June 2022 Vol. XLII, No. 06

## **Emerge-And-See**

June is a month that has felt very far away until...well...now. The days leading up to this moment in time have been busy, full, and, at times, heavy with emotion as we seek to say "thank you" and send our dear Rev. Sue into retirement with all the love we can muster, and as we look forward, with all the hope we can muster, to what lies ahead. We've also had to be practical and pragmatic-- planning, arranging, and finalizing so that the transition goes smoothly. I must admit, it has been easy to get caught up in the detail of it all. It is easy to get overwhelmed or to feel that it is impossible to do any of the things that we must do together in the days ahead—say "goodbye" to what has always been, say "hello" to new ways of doing things. Grief can be tricky and messy and sneaky and can show up in times and ways we least expect. It can completely blindside and overwhelm us and often, in the face of change and the unknown, our first response is often to panic and run around like everything is on fire. We are flooded with fear and feel that everything needs to be done NOW. Simply put, grief can feel like an emergency. Or rather, like sitting in the waiting room at the local ER.

I don't know how much time you have spent as a patient waiting in an Emergency Room, but they can be disorienting places to find yourself. It's a place of "hurry up and wait". Time moves so very slowly and yet feels very much of the essence. The pain in the room is palpable. You are simultaneously overwhelmed by your own troubles, while also compassionately feeling for those who are in the waiting room with you. You want to hide, but are also desperate to be seen. You are sitting, waiting, wondering how long until your name is called and your pain is relieved. You are not sure what lies ahead, wishing you were home, but you also know you are where you need to be. Sounds a lot like grief, doesn't it?

I recently read words written by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette who serves at the lead pastor at First Church Berkeley UCC in California that spoke to my heart and inspired me in such a time as this. She said, "A lot of emergencies, with spiritual hindsight, turn out to have been *"Emerge-and-Sees."* Opportunities for uncomfortable but necessary growth; ruptures that revealed something essential."

My beloved ones, we do not know what lies ahead (and the truth is, we never have). There will be times when we wish more than anything that we could go "home", back to the places that made sense, that felt "normal" and safe and familiar. And yet, I know deep in my bones that we are where we need to be and I give thanks that we are here together. The weeks and months ahead will not be easy, linear, or "normal." They will, however, be filled with love and care, and they will grow us and reveal something essential about God and about us as a church family. Our call and challenge is to pay attention to what is revealed. We have been "going the mile and bearing the load" with one another for so long, we have entered into this new wilderness of grief with one another, and together, we will *emerge-and-see* what God's love among us and within us will do.

*Rev. Addie*



2022

## Were You There?

Herman Thirty Years

Ago: A celebration of the ministry of Dr. C. Ahrens, Minister of Communication for the PSEC, was held on June 21 at St. John's.



**Twenty-five Years Ago:** Following 10:15 AM worship on June 1 there was a hearing about proceeding with bids and paying for renovations of Assembly Hall.

**Twenty Years Ago:** The St. John's Constitution committee presented a final draft of the proposed revisions in June.

**Fifteen Years Ago:** Anyone interested in joining St. John's Mission Trip to New Orleans registered with Rev. Ryan by June 17.

**Ten Years Ago:** The Elders suggested that each of the Church Boards act as Social Hosts one Sunday each month.

**Five Years Ago:** The newly renovated Schultz Memorial Organ was again providing glorious music after an absence of 19 Sundays.

**One Year Ago:** The first Sunday for in-person worship was on June 13; there was one service at 9:00 AM. Those planning to attend were asked to notify the church office for planning purposes.

## WHAT'S UP IN COUNCIL?



### Financial Report, Matt Carson:

St. John's Income for April will be \$40,701.86 (including the budget transfer for April, not yet conducted), which is short of our expenses of \$50,185.54. Building operating expenses account for the overage in our budget. Year to date donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) are \$16,894.00, keeping us well on track for our annual target of \$48,272.

There was a breach at Wells Fargo before Easter and funds were stolen from St. John's accounts. It was caught almost immediately on Good Friday by Chriss Bodde. Matt and Chriss worked diligently with WF over the weekend to resolve the issue, and all funds were successfully recovered by Monday. New accounts, with additional safeguards, were in place by Tuesday. Lansdale Police were notified on the Saturday before Easter and an investigation is ongoing.

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

### Staff Reports:

#### Rev. Dr. Sue Bertollette, Senior Pastor:

As my retirement draws near, much of my time is spent bringing closure to my work at the church and my involvement in the leadership of some groups that will need to reorganize and rethink how their work is accomplished before moving forward.

Pastor Addie and I are working with this year's four confirmands to prepare for confirmation on Pentecost, June 5th.

*[continued on next page]*



**Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:**

Since Easter, my time and energy has gone into preparing our May Carry-Out Connection bags and lessons, managing the day-to-day goings-on at the church, attending to pastoral care, planning worship, and preparing sermons. I also attended our annual Clergy Convocation in Lancaster, a joint event for pastors from the Penn Southeast, Northeast, and Central conferences. At the end of April, Janet Morton and I completed 2 terms (6 years) of serving on the North Penn Association Committee on Ministry.

**Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:**

As we look toward the Summer Season, soloists and various small ensembles will be offering their musical gifts. I will also be playing an organ or piano solo on occasion! Rev. Sue's final service on June 12 will be an exciting musical moment, with an expanded Chancel Choir of over 40 individuals leading worship. We look forward to sending Rev. Sue off with the anthem "All Things New" by Elaine Hagenberg.

The grand piano in the sanctuary has been under intense use this spring. The hammers are showing their age, causing serious voicing issues, along with the piano not staying in tune at a regular rate. Our piano tuner advised that the hammers be reshaped to keep the instrument in excellent shape for years to come. If this is not addressed, the issue will become worse, resulting in greater expenses in the future. This maintenance will cost between \$500 and \$700.

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

The Children's Choir sang at the Easter Sunrise service and two regular Sunday services recently.

*[continued at right]*

The choir is preparing an anthem for Rev. Sue's last Sunday and will have help from about six of the older children.

**Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:**

St. John's has donated \$545 in grocery and gas gift cards and rent assistance this past month. The Lansdale School of Business will be holding their graduation ceremony here on May 20; it will be their first ceremony since 2019. Plans are underway for Sue's retirement celebration and picnic on June 12. Graduate Recognition Sunday is planned for June 19.

**Please Note: There will be one  
worship service on Rev. Sue's last  
Sunday at 9:30 AM.**

**Board Reports:**

Deacons

Board meeting is scheduled for this week to discuss details of the picnic.

Educators

We are looking for opportunities in July and August to work with an organization called Cradles to Crayons, which deals with clothing insecurity. We plan to schedule two dates (a weekend and a weekday) to volunteer and donate clothing.

Elders

Plans are underway to revitalize the Umbrella Ministry. Elders will resume visitation during the Christmas holiday. Current list of visitors and those in need of visits needs to be updated. Elders will reach out to visitors who have filled in the visitation cards.

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April 2022 Attendance			
Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total
4/3	30	123	153
4/10	26	125	151
4/14			Maundy Thursday 85
4/17	234	143	377
4/24	25	111	136
Average per Week: 204			902

### Trustees

We improved the grading away from the building with topsoil.

New boiler is installed. Final setup will happen this week. Chimney will be addressed next.

### **Old Business:**

Both profiles received to date for Interim Pastor are strong candidates. We are expecting to have a gap between Pastor Sue's retirement and the start date of the Interim. We are working with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) leadership, Pastor Addie, the Personnel Committee, and the Finance Committee on options to address the gap to ensure our staff and congregation are well supported during this time.

Questions exist regarding the difference between a transition minister and permanent placement. Please see the explanation below written by Grace Bruen. This information is also in the current Herald.

### **What Is an Interim Pastor?**

When a minister has served the same church for over four decades, finding someone to replace that person is hard work and takes time.

Based on guidance and procedures provided by the PSEC, the search for and hiring of an intentional Interim Pastor is a necessary first step in this important process.

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An intentional Interim Pastor's purpose is to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care, and program/staff oversight. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "Settled" position as our pastor but will help to facilitate our transitional work in preparation for the Settled Pastor search. Currently we have two very good candidates that we are in the process of interviewing.

### **Why Do We Need an Interim Pastor?**

Some people may question why not just hire a Settled Pastor, instead of an interim. The process for recruiting and hiring a Settled Pastor can take 18 to 24 months to find the right candidate. An Interim Pastor provides a bridge to our new senior pastor and is intended to help us in many ways:

- To guide us through our feelings of loss as our beloved senior pastor retires
- To lead the congregation in a self-study and community learning process that will identify our church's vision for the future and corresponding pastoral needs
- To give St John's time to do a thorough search for our next senior pastor
- To give a break between the existing and new senior pastors to ensure the new senior pastor is not immediately compared to our current pastor, giving them a better chance to be truly welcomed and successful

We will hold an information session on May 22 in the Library after the 10:15 service.

### **New Business:**

We now have a listing of several ministries on our envelopes for specific giving. Sue suggested that a group of persons, such as our Outreach team, can assist in keeping these ministries alive and well.

### **Sunday Morning Drivers:**

We're short on drivers for Sunday mornings. We have three drivers and could use at least one more. JoAnn Sine is the contact for information and scheduling.



Here is the chancel flower donation list for June, July, and August 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!*



**June 5 PENTECOST, CONFIRMATION**

In memory of The Rev. Herman and Mrs. Ella Ahrens from Lorene Ahrens

In memory of the Snyder and the Roberts Families from Nancy Roberts

In memory of Dick and Anne Carolus's June 10th wedding anniversary from Mary Sue and Betsy Anne

In memory of Polly Hartzell's June 11th birthday from her daughter, Dee Reedman, and family

In memory of Vera Fritz's June 11th birthday from her daughter, Marilyn

**June 12**

In memory of Sara Line's birthday from her sister, Jeane, and Bob Fritz

In remembrance of the 72nd wedding anniversary of our parents, Lorene and the late Herman Ahrens, on June 18th, from their loving family

In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Conny and Bob Tanis on June 16th from their children and wedding flower girl

**June 19 FATHER'S DAY**

In memory of Joseph and Warren Koenig from Judy

In memory of Arthur Boulton, husband, father, and grandfather, from the Boulton family

In memory of Robert D. Schultz from his daughter, Merle Anne Morcom, and Walter Hawkins

In loving memory of Thomas Dunlap on Father's Day from his daughter, Cindy Dunlap

*[continued at right]*

In loving memory of Anthony Faga and Theodore J. Ryan, our devoted dads, from their first-borns, Andy and Amy Ryan Faga  
In memory of David Evans from Jeane Fritz and family

In memory of William C. Fritz from Robert, Connie, Judy, and family

In memory of Charlotte Yocum's June 22nd birthday from her family

In memory of Robert M. Jenkinson's June 24th birthday from his daughter, Joan Haag Beiter

In honor of their June 24th wedding anniversary and in memory of their granddaughter, Caitlyn Jade Liebel, by Grace and Gerald Linderman Jr.

**June 26**

In memory of Thomas Timko's June 28th birthday from his wife, Vada, and family, and Tobi and Tim

In memory of Eric Kirk from his mother, Barbara Kirk

**July 3**

In memory of Fred Brunner's July 7th birthday from his wife, Thelma

**July 10**

In memory of Nancy and Bob Schultz, Harry and Juliet and Minnie Schultz from Merle Anne Morcom and Walter Hawkins

**July 17**

In memory of Arthur Boulton's July 22nd birthday—husband, father, and grandfather, from the Boulton Family

**July 24**

In memory of Richard C. Kriebel's July 24th birthday from his family

In memory of Dr. E. Willard Hartzell's July 24th birthday from his daughter, Dee, and the Reedman family

In memory of Nancy Kirk's July 29th birthday from her daughter, Barbara Kirk

**July 31**

In memory of her mother Emma K. Jenkinson's July 31st birthday and C. Webster Haag's August 1st birthday from Joan Haag Beiter

*[continued on next page]*

In memory of Richard (Pete) Mininger's July 31st birthday from his wife, Shirley, son Douglas, and daughters Dawn and Connie  
In memory of Warren Badger's August 6th birthday from his daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

August 14

In memory of A. Granville Kratz's August 15th birthday from his family

In memory of Emma Swartley's August 16th birthday from her family

In honor of Thea Evangeline Keys's birthday on August 16th from her grandmother, Kathy York

August 21

In memory of Ethel I. Pool's August 22nd birthday from her daughter, Louella Trout

In memory of Herb and Kay Crouthamel's August 22nd wedding anniversary from their daughter, Debbie Krail, and family

In memory of Edward Clayton and Margaretta Pole from their family

August 28

In memory of Ida Wurster's August 29th birthday from Shirley Ehrlich

In memory of William's August 29th birthday from his grandparents, Pat and Al Prisco



If you have a birthday in June, please consider donating a Birthday Cake Bag to Manna on Main Street. These bags could be plain, decorated, or purchased and filled with a cake mix, a tub of icing, sprinkles, and birthday candles. If you wish to include a card and small gift that would be wonderful. Just put the bag where we put donated food for Manna in the Narthex, and they will be delivered.

Please note, however, Manna always needs food donations. **Most needed are the following items:**

- Granola bars, any variety
- Canned fruit or fresh fruit, any variety
- Diapers (We need size 3T – 4T, 4T – 5T, 5/6 at this time, NO NEWBORN – 4 )
- Dry dog and cat food
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, ranch and Italian dressing

*[continued at right]*

- Shelf Stable Almond or Soy Milk
- Bean and vegetable soups

Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Apr 2022	Jan–Apr 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
<i>[continued at right]</i>		20.00
Current Tithes/Offerings	26,347.36	135,959.91
Flowers	702.00	2,032.00
Rental Income	3,050.00	12,200.00
Use of Building Income	750.00	2,040.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	14.00	712.23
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	1.01	4.17
Total Income	30,884.37	152,968.31
Gross Income	30,884.37	152,968.31
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,866.78	143,570.56
Elders Expenses	499.75	1,208.41
Deacons Expenses	300.00	1,326.50
Educators Expenses	334.01	659.22
Trustees/Building Expenses	158.49	3,544.13
Building Operation Expenses	5,312.74	25,140.83
Operating Expenses	6,505.17	24,340.94
Miscellaneous Expenses	54.60	406.06
Total Expense	49,031.54	200,196.65
Net Ordinary Income	–18,147.17	–47,228.34
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	–8,328.67	–7,954.34
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	1,521.00	2,321.00
Benevolence Offerings	4,845.11	32,783.06
Special Accounts	1,819.84	15,518.79
Total Other Income	8,185.95	50,622.85
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	2,343.65	4,987.45
Benevolence Disbursements	10,526.11	43,612.95
Special Fund Expenditures	4,797.97	11,160.74
Immediate-Needs Expense	14,351.35	14,351.35
Total Other Expense	32,019.08	74,112.49
Net Other Income	–23,833.13	–23,894.64
Net Income	–41,980.30	–70,717.98
Net Income Plus Transfers	–25,195.20	–6,248.78



## News from the Pews



As I write to you on this beautiful spring day, I am watching two little birds build their nest while I listen to the breeze rustling the trees all around me. I am reminiscing about the past, having been paying attention to the fact that Rev. Sue will be retiring from her position as Sr. Pastor of St. John's in just a few weeks.

I mention this because this little church mouse has been around almost as long as Rev. Sue has been around, having claimed space in the monthly newsletter ever since shortly after Rev. Sue arrived in 1980. Many of you, I know, have suspected that Rev. Sue and I are in some way connected, especially since we have similar writing styles, and because we tend to like the same things. While there is a definite connection, I will just leave it at that and keep you guessing. But what I will not keep you guessing about is this: I, too, will be retiring and no longer writing a monthly column for *The Enlightener*. This little church mouse is eager to do some traveling and relaxing, perhaps visiting other churches where there may also be church mice, and hunting for places where there are beautiful labyrinths like the one at St. John's.

Of course, my hope is that another little critter might take my place, keeping St. John's members informed about what is going on in the life of the church, and sharing observations about things they see happening behind the scenes. It doesn't have to be a mouse, although my small size has made it easy for me to be in a variety of

different places without anyone knowing I was present.

I will certainly miss seeing each of you in the pews and as you go about the work of St. John's day by day, but who knows? You may spot me scurrying prayerfully through the labyrinth early one morning or admiring the gardens as I take my daily walks. I might even be spotted perched on one of the benches surrounding the church, but of this you can be sure: I will be praying for each of you and cheering you on as new leadership is identified and the church moves forward. As this little church mouse anticipates enjoying life with a pace that is a bit more relaxed than it has been in recent years, I will be savoring all that I have experienced while among you. Many thanks for the wonderful church home you have provided for me all these years. May the best be yet to come, for both you and for me, and may you always consider me to be part of the wonderfully motley crew that is St. John's UCC!

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, in the hospital, 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 gold 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

June 5	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
June 12	Grace & Gerry Linderman
June 19	Shelly Longcoy
June 26	Judy & Alan Johnston

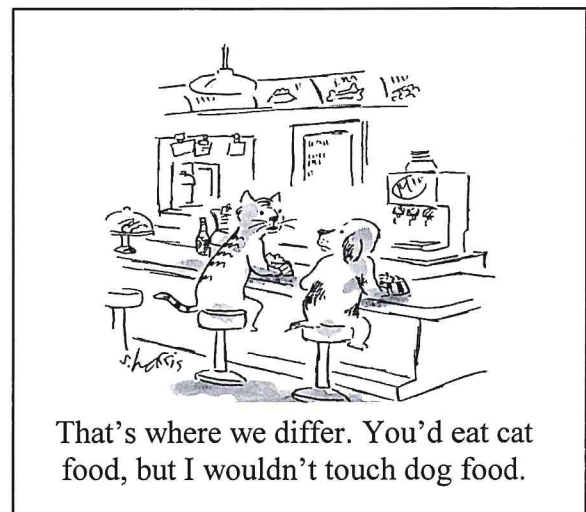
July 3	Gayle & Bob George
July 10	Ruth Kinsey
July 17	
July 24	Lillian & Dan Panachyda
July 31	Mary Billy

August 7	Cindy Reese
August 14	Lisa Thim
August 21	Barb & Don Fretz
August 28	Susan & John Hendricks

## Articles Due for September Issue Deadline: August 14

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 (top bin) or emailed to [erickinsey46@gmail.com](mailto: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. Eric Kinsey, Editor: [erickinsey46@gmail.com](mailto:erickinsey46@gmail.com)





## 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](mailto: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)	

## Poncho Project

Last month, Rev. Sue forwarded this request to the Outreach Team from Camille Britain of Intersect: Community Needs:

"...one of my neighbors is learning about needs amongst the homeless and had an excellent idea to do a trade-in program, where individuals experiencing homelessness can switch out their winter coats for a hoodie and poncho. Typically, in homelessness, because heavier gear becomes too hard to transport and people can't keep it clean or dry, it tends to get discarded, even if it still has life. So, upon trade in, my neighbor is volunteering to launder all winter jackets and store them until next winter to redistribute. Amazing!!!

For this trade-in program to work, we need ponchos. I worked with another church and received over 200 donated hoodies, which was awesome! Our goal was 100 of each, and we are short on ponchos. wondered if this is something St John's might like to be involved with?"

The Outreach Team was able to purchase 26 durable ponchos using funds which have been budgeted to meet immediate needs such as this. If you would like to make a donation to help with this project, please place your donation (marked "PONCHOS") in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.



ST. JOHN'S  
**Artist Series**

**2022-2023 • Andrew Paulson, Artistic Director • Our 35<sup>th</sup> Season**

It's time to mark your calendars for the 2022-2023 St. John's Artist Series!  
This season promises to be our best yet. You won't want to miss a moment!

*All concerts are free of charge and occur on Sunday afternoons at 4pm in the St. John's sanctuary.*

**October 2, 2022**

**Svyati Duo**

Rebecca Hepplewhite, cello

Julian Collings, organ

**December 11, 2022**

**Christmas Festival**

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends

Musicians from North Penn High School

**April 2, 2023**

**Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living**

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends

Special Guests

**April 23, 2023**

**Doppelflöte**

Melissa Freilich, flute

Vincent M. Ryan, organ

**New this year!**

Be on the lookout for an invitation to our Mid-Winter Gala, occurring in early 2023.

Plan for an evening of delicious food and exquisite entertainment,  
all while supporting the St. John's Artist Series!

*The date, location, and further details will be announced soon.*

**Now that you have added the above concerts to your calendar,  
consider becoming a patron and financially supporting the 2022-2023 season!**

Bringing such talented musicians to St. John's is no small fee.

Your support, no matter the amount, makes us sing! Please consider donating at any of the levels below.

*Note that our support levels have changed.*

\_\_\_ Up to \$99 \_\_\_ \$100-249 \_\_\_ \$250-499 \_\_\_ \$500-999 \_\_\_ \$1000+

Name as you would like it to appear in Artist Series programs: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC and note Artist Series in the memo section.*





Please Join  
Us!

## Church Picnic & Rev. Sue's Retirement Celebration!

Sunday, June 12, 1–3 PM  
at Plains Park, 50 West Orvilla Road, Hatfield, PA

All picnic goers **MUST SIGN UP** via e-mail, phone, or on a signup sheet in the Narthex or hallway by the elevator by **Sunday, June 5.** Help us have the right amount of food by signing up in advance! Thank you!

Call Lisa at 215-855-5489 during church office hours OR e-mail Amy at [amy.faga@gmail.com](mailto:amy.faga@gmail.com), or Sally at [sjarinko@comcast.net](mailto:sjarinko@comcast.net) OR sign up in the Narthex or elevator lobby before June 5.

TWO chances to wish Rev. Sue well on Sunday, June 12... Right after the **9:30 AM service** (note the special time) OR at the Church Picnic!

Just for FUN...

Wear purple clothes OR a St. John's UCC T-shirt!

Enjoy delicious picnic food provided by our Deacons!

View highlights of Rev. Sue's career in a photo slideshow!

Participate in two craft activities for all ages!

Play in the shady playground!

