

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

Enlightener

October 2022 Vol. XLII, No. 08

WITH FAITH, WE MOVE FORWARD

The past months have been incredibly challenging for St. John's wonderfully motley crew. We journeyed with Rev. Sue as she continued her cancer battle, celebrated her retirement and grieved her passing. During this time, Rev. Addie and St. John's staff kept "the ship afloat" as we navigated and continue to navigate uncharted waters. Since this is a challenging and sacred time of healing, growth and discernment, the Stewardship Committee has identified this year's theme: **With Faith, We Move Forward.**

We think back to all we've been through, marvel at what we've been able to do together, and "keep on keeping on" because that's what our wonderfully motley crew does. Although we will continue to mourn well into the future, we seek new ways of moving forward, continuing to rely on our faith and to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care.

In order to do this, we are inviting you to consider your support to St. John's and the wider UCC community as you give prayerful thought as to what your commitment will be. On Stewardship **Sunday, November 13**, 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.

Now more than ever, we as a faith community need one another's time, talents, resources, and presence. Your generosity has sustained our community during this time of transition, discovery, and healing. May your continued generosity enable us to grow, live, and move forward into God's vision for St. John's.

St. John's Stewardship Committee

Barnes Nathalie, Chair
Rev. Addie

Sumiko Boockam
Jeff Elms
Sally Jarinko

Stephen D. Butz

OCTOBER 2022



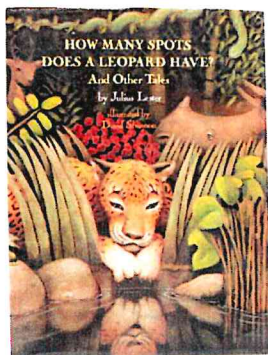
Rev. Sue's Favorite Children's Books

Have you seen the bookcase of children's books in our church library, under the portrait of Rev. Sue? These 42 books were a gift to honor her 42 years of ministry. You can easily tell which books are in this special collection by the lavender strip on the spine of each book, which reads, "A Rev. Sue Favorite."

Rev. Sue often drew inspiration, messages, and quotes from children's literature, including these books.

You'll find all kinds of books, from poetry to biographies to humor to mythology in this collection...something for everyone! Use the purple notebook and purple pen to sign out the book of your choice. *Won't you please return it after a week so others may also enjoy it?* Thank you!

Every month, three books will be highlighted in *The Enlightener* to help familiarize you with these terrific books:



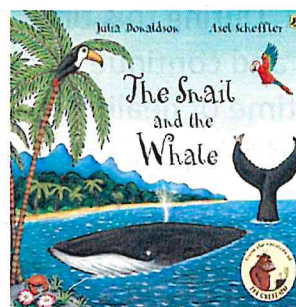
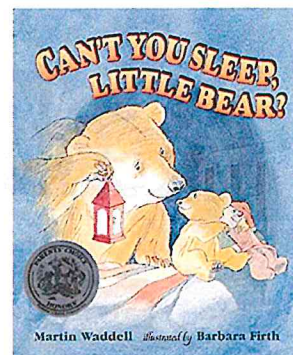
How Many Spots Does A Leopard Have? And Other Fables by Julius Lester

Acts of vanity, trickery, quiet courage, and fraternal loyalty enrich this collection of African and Jewish

folktales, retold by a master storyteller and illustrated with richly detailed paintings.

Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? by Martin Waddell

In this tender account of a sleepless night in the bear cave, Big Bear sets out with all his patience and understanding to show Little Bear that the dark is nothing to be afraid of.



The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson

The Snail and the Whale is a heartwarming story that illustrates that

anyone, no matter how small they are, can achieve great things if they put their mind to it.



ARTICLES DUE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 9

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

- ✧ All Saints' Day
- ✧ Veterans Day
- ✧ Stewardship Sunday
- ✧ Thanksgiving
- ✧ First Sunday of Advent

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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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 2	Marcia Stacy
October 9	Amy Faga
October 16	Lisa Thim
October 23	Tracey & Mark O' Neill
October 30	Melody Bergey

Council News



Financial Report, Matt Carson:

August was another slow month for St. John's. Total income of \$34,148.50 (which includes the monthly investment transfer of \$9,818.50) fell short of our expenses of \$43,173.12. Our low income is attributed to low tithes and offerings and no rental income in summer months from the Montessori School.

We have received total income year-to-date of \$269,718.41 against total expenses of \$384,554.82, a deficit of -\$114,836.41. Of that income, \$244,809.60 is accounted for by tithes and offerings.

Our 2022 commitment to "Our Church's Wider Mission" (OCWM) is \$48,272. Year-to-date we have received \$28,446.00, short of the budgeted amount of \$32,181. There has been significant giving to other funds but a decrease in tithes.

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

GEM Fund Requests, Grace Bruen: Vision and Mission Ministries

Rev. Mark Bethala requested funds for food and medicines for the Christian Community in Telangana, India, due to flooding and malaria. No government support is provided. Vision and Mission Ministries does have access to volunteer doctors and some access to lower prescription medications. A \$2,000 donation would help 10 families for a month. This donation was approved unanimously.

The GEM Fund needs to remain funded and not become depleted. A Benevolence group needs to be created to manage these types of requests that come to St. John's through different people and staff. This topic will be discussed with Rev. Davis.

Stewardship Committee Covenant Campaign, Steve Butz

The new Stewardship Covenant Campaign focuses on how the congregation can be good stewards of what God has given to be a faith community.

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Sunday, November 13, is Stewardship Sunday. The covenant commitment cards received will be dedicated. Covenant cards can be brought to worship anytime once they are made available.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Addie Stong, Acting Lead Pastor:

- Celebration Sunday is October 2.
- Carry-Out Connection will add one in-person meeting each month on first Sunday. Carry-Out Connection bags will be distributed at this meeting.
- Congregation members, your presence is needed at worship!

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music:

- There will be a choir retreat held at Trinity Lutheran with guest clinician, Drew Lutz-Long, on October 8.
- The first Artist Series will be Sunday, October 2, featuring the Svyati Duo.
- The Music Ministry Minute has been added to Facebook highlighting everything you need to know about music at St. John's. It will be available each Friday at noon from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

- Children's Choir held a scavenger hunt as beginning-year activity.
- The choir will begin October 2.
- Older children will be invited to join the choir as ensembles singing twice a year.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

- Community assistance totaling over \$1,000 was given. There has been an increase of homeless people approaching St. John's for assistance. They are referred to Manna or St. Vincent de Paul for vetting and those agencies reach out to St. John's to coordinate assistance. The amount of people arriving is becoming difficult to handle.
- Lisa suggested the new Benevolence group could also handle the Good Samaritan Funds.

Board Reports:

Deacons

- A Fellowship Time will be held on Celebration Sunday, October 2.
- Social Hour will begin once a month. Additional weeks will be considered at a later date.

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Educators

- A take-home item will be handed out on Celebration Sunday.
- Sunday School will begin an in-person class on the first Sunday of each month (October 2, November 6, December 4). The first class will meet in the Activity Room at 9:00 AM.
- Fall Goodie Boxes: Last day for donations is October 23.

Elders

- Umbrella Ministry has begun. Thanks to Sumiko Booraem for setting up the Committee. Please see Sumiko if you'd like to help.
- Elders are working with Sally Jarinko for communion setup training.
- Total attendance for August was 491 for both services.

August 2022 Attendance			
Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total
8/7	37	108	145
8/14		115	115
8/21	26	82	108
8/28	24	99	123
	Average per Week		123

Trustees

- The chimney liners and the boiler replacement will be finished before the fall heating season.
- There is a need to repair eight sections of sidewalks along Main Street. Trustees have approved David B. Nagel Masonry at a cost of \$4,200 with funds from the Capital Improvements fund. This is a nonbudgeted item.
- The request to use Anchor House parking lot for employee parking for Backyard Beans coffee shop when not in use by St. John's, mentioned in Trustees' notes in the September *Enlightener*, will have a 6-month trial period. The insurance policy will be addressed and signs for the cars stating 'Employees' on dash will be used. The real estate company also shares this lot with St. John's.
- Additional help will be hired to shovel snow.

Old Business:

PAR Recycling Event Update, Bill Leslie

- We have 21 volunteers to help with the PAR-Recycling event September 24. More volunteers are needed. If you are interested, use the signup sheets in the Narthex or Elevator entrance, or contact Don Atkiss at datkiss@comcast.net.

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- The event has been posted on the St. John's website, Facebook page, and Citizens for the Revitalization of Lansdale Facebook page. Please get the word out to friends and family to bring their old electronics and a donation for Manna on Main Street.
- More information will be emailed out to the volunteers who have signed up next week.

Search and Call Update, Liz Rivett

- On Pastor Dale's first Sunday, September 25, the Transition Team will host "Donuts with Dale" in the library after both services. We will include an announcement at the start of each service to welcome him. His wife, Helen, will also be with us that Sunday.
- Pastor Dale is excited to meet the people of St. John's. The Transition Team will work with him to organize small gatherings with members to hear about their hopes and concerns.
- As a congregation, we will soon shift our attention from this transition to preparing for the next one—our search for a settled Senior Pastor. There will be two key activities included: creation of our profile and the actual Search Committee. As a reminder, the Board of Elders leads the Search Committee, including three or more members of the congregation at large. The profile may be completed by a combination of the current Transition Team, the Elders, and members at large. If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on either of these important and exciting teams, please contact Bill, me, or any of the Transition Team members.

New Business:

Hospitality Team Recruiting

- Approximately 3 to 5 new members are needed for teams. Contact the office or any hospitality team member to help.

Expiring Council Terms

- Each Board will lose two people at the end of the year and new members will be sought.



AGM—Paused

For many reasons, we feel we should postpone the Alternative Gift Market (AGM) 2022 and come back even stronger next fall! We held our last two AGMs virtually, and it would have to be virtual again this year.

We would rather wait until next fall and have our market in person. We have an exciting new idea for next year's AGM, keeping us COVID safe AND in person! Stay tuned for details!

In the meantime, we will meet with our AGM committee to discuss the two new nonprofits who would like to participate and determine which 20 nonprofits we will support. Our big new idea will be hashed out, and plans will be made for AGM 2023—in person! We love the energy and good vibes from getting all those like-minded people together, doing good things for charities!

If you're interested in joining our "Dream Team," please contact either one of us.

A big, enthusiastic "Thank You" to John Hendricks for all the work he did to promote AGM 2020 and AGM 2021 online. We greatly appreciated his efforts and expertise! We couldn't have done it without him.

Amy Ryan Faga and Nicole Groff
AGM Co-Chairs



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. James Lacy, friend of the Lampe family; Dr. Karl Godshall, brother of Barb Fretz; Butch Kriebel, brother of Karen Filson; and Mary Sue Buchler, who passed away recently.

FINANCES		
Summary of August and Year-to-Date Income and Expense	August 2022	January–August 2022
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Counters Discrepancies	0.00	100.00
Current Tithes/Offerings	4,127.00	244,827.98
Flowers	160.00	2,892.00
Rental Income	0.00	18,300.00
Use of Building Income	35.00	2,865.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	8.00	726.23
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	1.05	8.25
Total Income	24,331.05	269,719.46
Gross Income	24,331.05	269,719.46
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	25,292.52	266,787.86
Elders Expenses	0.11	1,308.25
Deacons Expenses	398.98	4,647.29
Educators Expenses	0.22	1,758.37
Trustees/Building Expenses	3,841.24	12,285.67
Building Operation Expenses	4,658.10	41,587.37
Operating Expenses	8,741.38	55,334.82
Miscellaneous Expenses	54.60	515.26
Total Expense	42,987.15	384,224.89
Net Ordinary Income	-18,656.10	-114,505.43
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	9,818.50	78,548.00
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-8,837.60	-35,957.40
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	250.00	3,721.00
Benevolence Offerings	2,488.00	45,904.06
Special Accounts	10,129.00	36,911.47
Immediate-Needs Income	0.00	15,572.05
Total Other Income	12,867.00	102,108.58
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	792.37	6,559.48
Benevolence Disbursements	3,573.00	59,091.06
Special Fund Expenditures	16,892.50	46,701.20
Immediate-Needs Expense	48.52	53,514.29
Total Other Expense	21,306.39	165,866.03
Net Other Income	-8,439.39	-63,757.45
Net Income	-27,095.49	-178,262.88
Net Income Plus Transfers	-17,276.90	-142,304.60

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: The sixth through ninth grade Youth Group planned outings to the Franklin Institute's Omniverse Theater and Camden's Adventure Aquarium.

Twenty-five Years Ago: The gift of a Steinway grand piano from Grace Sloan in memory of her husband, Bob Sloan, was noted in the October *Enlightener*.

Twenty Years Ago: A church newsletter faux pas, October 2002 *Enlightener*. The sermon this morning is "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight is "Searching for Jesus."

Fifteen Years Ago: Having traveled throughout the country in 2005 and 2006, George Kaufman conducted three sessions on the culture, politics, and people of Myanmar.

Ten Years Ago: A new Hymn Singing Service began following 7 PM communion. There was a suggestion box in the library for requests for additional hymns to be sung in future services.

Five Years Ago: We dedicated the Herman C. Ahrens Jr. memorial marker in the Meditation Garden following the 10:15 worship service on World Communion Sunday.

One Year Ago: Ginny Wilkinson introduced to us the "Birthday Cake Bag" initiative to benefit Manna on Main Street.

Chancel Flower Donations

October 2 World Communion Sunday

In memory of Julia G. Kriebel'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 9

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 16

In memory of Richard Drissel's October 16th birthday from S. Ronald and Joyce Erb

October 30 Reformation Day

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





JOIN US FOR THE OPENING CONCERT OF OUR 2022-2023 SEASON

Svyati Duo

Rebecca Hepplewhite, cello • Julian Collings, organ

Sunday, October 2, 4pm

"The performances are exemplary." -Fanfare Magazine • Learn more about Svyati Duo at: www.svyatiduo.com

All are welcome to this free event!

REMAINING EVENTS THIS SEASON

Christmas Festival: Sunday, December 11, 4pm

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends • North Penn Chamber Singers and Brass Ensemble

Midwinter Gala: Friday, February 17, 6pm at PineCrest Country Club

Join us for a night of dinner, drinks, and a silent auction, all supporting the St. John's Artist Series!

Ticket Required • Visit www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala for more information.

Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living: Sunday, April 2, 4pm

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends • Musicians from Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra • Julie Frey, soprano

Doppelflöte: Sunday, April 23, 4pm

Melissa Freilich, flute • Vincent M. Ryan, organ

New this year! Visit our new website and "like" our new Facebook page!

Website: www.stjohnsartistseries.org • Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stjohnsartistseries

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

Gifts of all sizes allow us to present concerts at no cost to audience members. Thank you for your support!*

\$1000+

Lillian & Dan Panachyda

\$500-\$999

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\$250-\$499

A Friend • Sally & Steve Jarinko • Anne & Eric Kinsey • Bill & Judy Leslie

James, Frances, & Siobhan Morris • Scott & Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

Lorene Ahrens • Sue & Bob Bertolette • Sandy & Scott Brown • Marie Carota • Sue Clemens
Leroy & Linda Horst • Ron & Joyce Huisenga • Judy Koenig • Connie May • Tim & Janet Morton
Cynthia T. Otherwise & John B. Otherwise Jr. • Susan Popjoy • Marcia Stacy • Joe & Carol Voicheck

Up to \$99

Thank you to our donors in this category for their generous support!

Visit www.stjohnsartistseries.org/make-a-donation or scan the QR code below to give electronically!



Prefer to give via check or cash? Mail or drop off your gift at St. John's along with the below form completed.

Donation amount: _____ Name as you would like it to appear in publications: _____

Please make checks payable to *St. John's UCC* and indicate *Artist Series Donation* in the memo line.

**Note that our giving levels have changed to reflect an average cost of approximately \$4000 for each concert.*

This cost covers the necessary expenses of advertising, fair performer payment, travel fees, and more.

To learn more about our updated donor levels and benefits, please visit www.stjohnsartistseries.org/make-a-donation.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

1300 E 9th Street, Suite 1100
Cleveland, Oh 44114

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

With Faith, We Move Forward

I/we covenant with God to contribute to St. John's UCC in 2023:

\$ _____ Weekly OR \$ _____ Monthly for Current Expenses

\$ _____ Weekly OR \$ _____ Monthly for OCWM-(Our Church's Wider Mission)

_____ I/we will contribute to St. John's as I am/we are able

(Please place in basket on November 13)

With Faith, We Move Forward

I/we covenant with God to contribute to St. John's UCC in 2023:

\$ _____ Weekly OR \$ _____ Monthly for Current Expenses

\$ _____ Weekly OR \$ _____ Monthly for OCWM-(Our Church's Wider Mission)

_____ I/we will contribute to St. John's as I am/we are able

(Please keep for your records)

