



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

Enlightener

January 2023 Vol. XLIII, No. 01

Greetings St. John's Members and Friends!

Welcome to a new year everyone. As we look forward to the future, it is also a time to reflect on the past year. It was a year we will all remember ~ full of emotion. After learning early in the year of Rev. Sue's plans to retire in June, St. John's prepared for that day. Many folks joined together to prepare for the celebration of Sue's 42-year ministry at St. John's. It was truly a labor of love as projects to honor Sue were begun. Many people donated to the fund to purchase 42 of Rev. Sue's favorite children's books for the Children's Library, a bench and plaque for the Labyrinth (Sue's favorite spot), and stones on which Sue's 4-letter words of faith were engraved and placed near the bench. On June 12 the sanctuary was filled as members, friends and community officials gathered to celebrate Rev. Sue's retirement and recognize the many ministries she was involved with over the years, not only at St. John's but in the North Penn community and the United Church of Christ. During the service the title of Pastor Emerita was bestowed to Rev. Sue by Bill Leslie, St. John's Council President.

Sadly, only two months later Rev. Sue passed after her years-long battle with cancer. So soon after her retirement, this faith community and Sue's family were faced with the task of planning her memorial service. Much thought and prayer went into preparing a fitting tribute to such a special pastor, wife, mother and friend. Her memorial service on August 12 was a beautiful worship service honoring a woman of great faith who was loved by her church family. Praise God for Rev. Sue's legacy that will live on in the many lives she touched at St. John's and beyond.

After Rev. Sue retired, a Transition Team was formed to begin searching for an interim pastor. A Call Agreement was accepted by Rev. Dale Davis who began his ministry here on September 19. We are thankful for an interim pastor with years of knowledge and experience to lead St. John's through the transition period. We are also thankful for the continuity and knowledge of St. John's that Rev. Addie provides every day. St. John's is blessed to have both Rev. Dale and Rev. Addie at this time in our history.

VBS in 2022 was an inter-generational event providing hands-on volunteering at MCC Material Resource Center and two trips to Mitzvah Circle Foundation. Supplies for backpacks were collected and on August 10th backpacks were filled and later delivered to Urban Promise by Rev. Addie and Rev. Kim. This VBS experience was a wonderful time for folks, young and young-at-heart, reaching out to neighbors in need.

In the past year five children were baptized, four young people were confirmed and two weddings were officiated at St. John's. We mourned the passing of 16 members and 11 friends.

The new year will certainly have its own joys and challenges, but together, and with God's help, we will face them together. Our Stewardship Theme for 2023 is so appropriate ~ With Faith, We Move Forward.

Lisa Delp



Were You There?



Thirty Years Ago: Additional recipes were requested to be added to the St. John's cookbook.

Twenty-five Years Ago: The Winter Congregational Dinner was split between several different rooms while the Assembly Hall was undergoing renovations.

Twenty Years Ago: Interim Pastor George Bahner led St. John's Study Group on a deeper understanding of the Scriptures.

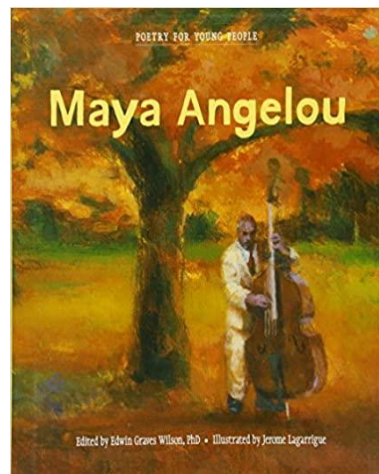
Fifteen Years Ago: We celebrated the success of the Fairly Traded Coffee and Tea Program on its first anniversary.

Ten Years Ago: A current initiative at that time was to assemble a stash of plastic buckets, disinfectants, sponges, and other cleaning supplies to be available for victims of events such as Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy.

One Year Ago: Marie Carota submitted an article on behalf of the Creation Stewards explaining the meaning and nuances of terms such as sustainability, walkability, and global warming versus climate change.

January 2023 Good Reads!

Snuggle up during the cold month of January with a "Rev. Sue Favorites" book. There are 42 books for ALL AGES available for borrowing; please sign them out in the upstairs Library.

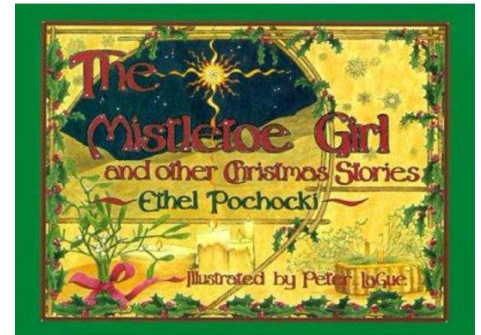


Poetry for Young People by Maya Angelou

Twenty-five of Maya Angelou's finest poems capture a range of emotions and experiences in this collection for young people, from the playful "Harlem

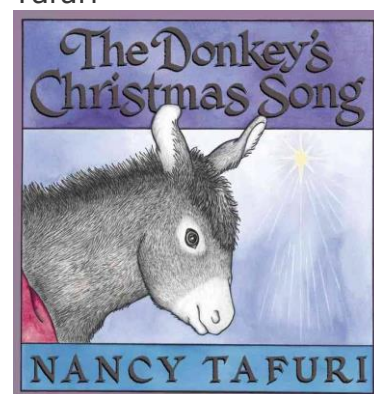
Hopscotch" to the prideful "Me and My Work" to the soul-stirring "Still I Rise." (Ages 9 and up)

The Mistletoe Girl and other Christmas Stories by Ethel Pochocki



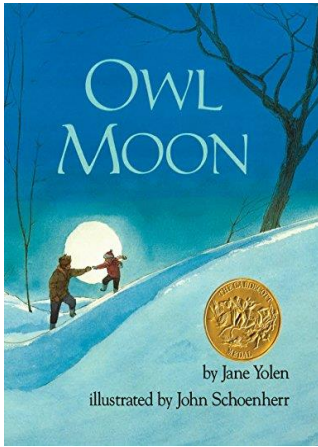
These warm, endearing, playful stories bring to life the magic of the Christmas experience. Throughout these eight delightful tales we encounter the Babe born not only in Bethlehem but also in the midst of our lives.

The Donkey's Christmas Song by Nancy Tafuri



A very special baby is born in a stable under a star, surrounded by friendly farmyard animals. The donkey wants to be the first to welcome the baby, but he is too shy.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen



Distinguished author Jane Yolen has created a gentle, poetic story that lovingly depicts the special companionship of a young child and her father as well as humankind's close relationship to the natural world.

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for January 2023. 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!

January 1

In memory of Marie Evans's January 6th birthday from her daughter, Jeane, and Bob Fritz and family

In memory of Yvonne DelCiotto's January 6th birthday from her husband, Joe

January 8

In memory of Richard R. Schmidt's January 10th birthday from his cousins Bob and Jane Keim

In memory of Eileen Crockett Laird's January 13th birthday from her sister, Pat, and Jonathan and Ken Rieker

In memory of her husband Bill's birthday from Nancy Roberts

January 15

In memory of Pat Salter's birthday on January 17th from her family

January 22

In memory of Michelle Leigh's January 23rd birthday from her Mum (Anne Haines)

In memory of Lorraine Badger's January 24th birthday from her daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

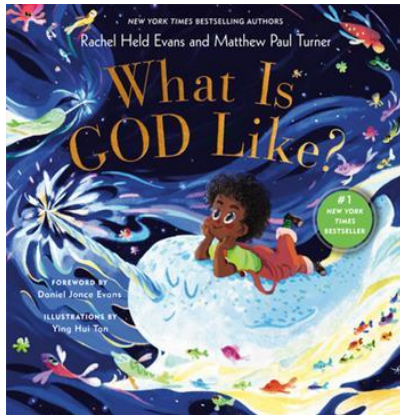
In memory of Ethel Shellenberger's January 25th birthday from Lorene Ahrens

What is God Like? by Rachel Held Evans

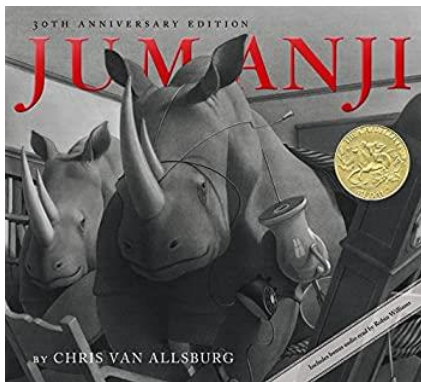
Through these pictures from the Bible, children see that God is like a shepherd, God is like a star, God is like a gardener, God is like the wind, and more. God is a comforter and support.

And whenever a child is unsure, *What Is God Like?*

encourages young hearts to "think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel loved, and what makes you feel brave. That's what God is like."



Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg



When Judy and Peter find a board game in the park, they take it home, hoping to alleviate their boredom. One live lion, an erupting volcano, and a dozen

destructive monkeys later, the children are no longer bored!

End of Year 2022 in Church Council



Summary of November and YTD Income and Expense	Nov 2022	Jan–Nov 2022
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Counters Discrepancies	0.00	100.00
Current Tithes/Offerings	36,391.01	335,063.47
Event Income/Fundraisers	300.00	900.00
Flowers	360.00	3,612.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	27,750.00
Use of Building Income	550.00	3,415.00
Misc. Unrestricted Income	12.00	1,023.23
Interest Income, Savings Accts	7.53	18.05
Total Income	40,770.54	371,881.75
Gross Income	40,770.54	371,881.75
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,404.42	371,578.27
Elders Expenses	38.55	1,449.50
Deacons Expenses	375.00	5,703.29
Educators Expenses	117.50	2,401.67
Trustees/Building Expenses	2,092.70	19,248.00
Building Operation Expenses	3,874.85	54,145.31
Operating Expenses	4,785.29	70,733.37
Miscellaneous Expenses	165.90	681.16
Total Expense	46,854.21	525,940.57
Net Ordinary Income	–6,083.67	–154,058.82
Budgeted Trnsfrs from Investments	9,818.54	108,003.94
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	3,734.87	53,945.12
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	300.00	9,771.00
Benevolence Offerings	2,882.84	56,032.90
Special Accounts	1,582.84	50,265.31
Immediate-Needs Income	0.00	15,572.05
Total Other Income	4,765.68	131,641.26
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	653.17	8,056.94
Benevolence Disbursements	3,714.00	68,676.06
Special Fund Expenditures	777.29	82,048.90
Immediate-Needs Expense	0.00	28,544.74
Total Other Expense	5,144.46	187,326.64
Net Other Income	–378.78	–55,685.38
Net Income	–6,462.45	–209,744.20
Net Income Plus Transfers	3,356.09	101,740.26

Financial Report, Matt Carson:

November was a good month for St. John's financially.

Total income of \$50,682.55 exceeded expenses of \$46,854.21 by about 8%.

Tithes and offerings exceeded the monthly goal for the first time in several months.

We are on track to fall short of our annual goal for donations to OCWM. Low giving to OCWM can be accounted for by benevolent giving having been directed elsewhere, such as to Ukraine relief efforts.

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

Staff Reports:

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Minister:

- There have been good conversations during the Rev. Dale Meetings. An inclusive report of the summary of the meetings was in the November minutes.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor:

- There have been two in-person confirmation meetings for the four confirmands who will be confirmed in May 2023.
- Addie thanked those who helped make White Gift Sunday successful.

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

- The Artist Series on December 11 was well attended and well received. A recording of the program will be available by the end of the week.
- The virtual Christmas Day service will be recorded this week.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

- Children will be singing at the early Christmas Eve service

[continued on next page]

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:

- Rental assistance of \$705 was provided.
- Calendars and envelopes for 2023 were ready for distribution at the White Gift service.

Board Reports:

Deacons:

- Social Hour will be held on January 8 and January 22, 2023. Beginning in February, it is anticipated it will be held weekly.
- Congregational Dinner is planned for Sunday, January 29. Pork and sauerkraut will be served.

Educators:

- December in-person Sunday School Advent Event was attended by 10 children and families.

Elders:

November Attendance			
Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total
11/6	26	118	144
11/13	32	124	156
11/20	34	105	139
11/27		128	128
Average per Week			147

Trustees:

- There are issues with the office internet. Trustees are looking at a router replacement.
- There will be a January planning meeting to transition new Trustees and a 2023 agenda.

Transition Team Update

We are looking for additional members to join us on this journey. Please reach out to Dale, Bill Leslie, or Liz Rivett if you have an interest. We may be reaching out to those who have expressed an interest to date.

Benevolence Activities/Fund Management:

Rick O'Connor is currently examining our efforts related to benevolence here at St. John's in hopes of making recommendations to Council on how to be more responsive to those in need.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Bud Moyer, husband of Bonnie, who passed away recently.

ARTICLES DUE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE DEADLINE: JANUARY 8

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

- ☐ Unhanging of the Greens
- ☐ Epiphany Sunday
- ☐ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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. 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, PA 19446
Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

January Hospitality Teams

January 1	Team 2: Bill Leslie Team Leader
January 8	Team 3: Don Atkiss Team Leader
January 15	Team 4: Grace & Mark Bruen Team Leaders
January 22	Team 1: Robin MacMullen Team Leader

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

Mother Teresa



**St. John's Personnel News
Chriss Bodde Retirement**

Chriss Bodde is retiring at the end of December from her position as Financial Administrator. Chriss started as the Church Admin during 2010 and served with distinction in that role through 2016. In September 2016 she proposed to the Personnel Committee that the Admin and Finance positions be split to allow the Finance role to be done on a part-time basis. The proposal was accepted, which allowed Chriss to retire from the full-time Admin position and begin the Finance position in October 2016. We then were fortunate to be able hire Lisa Delp to the full-time Admin role. St. John's has reaped the benefits of having both Chriss and Lisa ever since.

Chriss has done an incredible job in the Finance role; she will be greatly missed.

To replace Chriss, Personnel Committee selected Barbara MacIntosh. She started in early December and is working alongside Chriss for training. Barbara has a wealth of education and experience and comes to us thanks to a recommendation from Lisa. She will be reporting to Grace Bruen (Finance Committee Chair).

Please join us in congratulating Chriss on her well-earned retirement, as well as welcoming Barbara to the St. John's family.

ST. JOHN'S
Artist Series

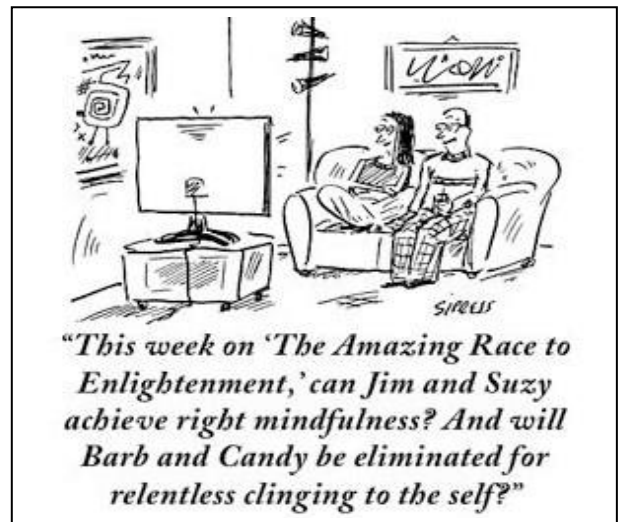
We are excitedly preparing for our Midwinter Gala and YOU are invited! For only \$100, you can purchase a ticket to this unforgettable event.

*When and Where:
Friday, February 17, 2023, 6-9 PM
PineCrest Country Club
101 Country Club Drive, Lansdale*

*Your Ticket Includes:
Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres with butler service, a delicious dinner with dessert, and an open beer/wine/soda bar. The opportunity to bid on items and experiences from local businesses in a silent auction.*

A special program with upcoming Artist Series season announcements.

*A night you will never forget!
All proceeds go to support the
St. John's Artist Series!*





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 ● Cards

Please remove the flowers from the brass vases and green liners and put them into the plastic floral containers located on the shelf in the flower room. Return the green liners to the brass vases, they belong to the florist. Include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are not available on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else and let me know. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry.

Lisa

2023

Jan 1	Sue & Bill Morris	Feb 5		Mar 5	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
8	Kelly Bresadola	12	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	12	Kelly Bresadola
15	Toni & Steve Butz	19	Mary Billy	19	Gale Linderman
22	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	26	Sarah Hogan	26	Pete Probst
29	Sarah Baker & Bob Keim				

Apr 2	Sue & Mike Donahue	May 7	Judy & Bill Zoll	Jun 4	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
9	Melody Bergey	14	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	11	Grace & Gerry Linderman
16	Sally & Steve Jarinko	21	Audrey Hahn	18	Shelly Longcoy
23	Karen & Mark Methlie	28	Peter Conver	25	Judy & Alan Johnston
30	Bonnie & Ken Hales				

Jul 2	Gayle & Bob George	Aug 6	Cindy Reese	Sep 3	Karen & Mark Methlie
9		13	Lisa Thim	10	Jen & Matt Harp
16		20	Barb & Don Fretz	17	Anne & Eric Kinsey
23	Lillian & Dan Panachyda	27	Susan & John Hendricks	24	
30	Mary Billy				

Oct 1	Marcia Stacy	Nov 5	Sarah Hogan	Dec 3	Lisa Thim
8	Amy Faga	12	Lisa Thim	10	Barbara & Robin MacMullen
15	Lisa Thim	19	Sue & Bill Morris	17	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
22	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	26	Sarah Hogan	24	
29				31	Sue & Bill Morris



RESCHEDULED FROM OCTOBER 2022

Svyati Duo

Rebecca Hepplewhite, cello • Julian Collings, organ

Wednesday, February 1, 7pm, 2023

*This United Kingdom based ensemble is heralded as 'exemplary' by Fanfare Magazine.
As always, admission is free for all St. John's Artist Series concerts.*

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+

Grace & Mark Bruen • Lillian & Dan Panachyda

\$500-\$999

Suzanne & Don Franks • Ruth Kinsey

\$250-\$499

A Friend • David Furniss • Sally & Steve Jarinko • Anne & Eric Kinsey • Bill & Judy Leslie
James, Frances, & Siobhan Morris • Scott & Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

Lorene Ahrens • Sally & Don Atkiss • Sue & Bob Bertolette • Sandy & Scott Brown • Marie Carota • Sue Clemens
Chuck & Jenny Favata • Debby & Steve Hendricks • Susan & John Hendricks • Leroy & Linda Horst • Ron & Joyce Huisenga
Judy Koenig • Connie May • Tim & Janet Morton • Ruth Moyer • Rick & Wendy O'Connor • Cynthia T. Otherwise
John B. Otherwise Jr. • Kim & Garen Paulson • Susan Popjoy • Marcia Stacy • Sandy & Robert Taylor • 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.

CELEBRATE THE ST. JOHN'S ARTIST SERIES IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE MIDWINTER GALA

Friday, February 17, 2023, 6-9pm

PineCrest Country Club

101 Country Club Dr • Lansdale, PA • 19446

Tickets are \$100 per person and include the following:

- Appetizers and hor d'oeuvres with butler service, a delicious dinner with dessert, and an open beer/wine/soda bar.
 - The opportunity to bid on items and experiences from local businesses in a silent auction.
 - A special program with upcoming Artist Series season announcements.
 - A night you will never forget!

Visit www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala or stop by the church office to purchase your ticket today!
All proceeds from the event support the St. John's Artist Series!