

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

# ***Enlightener***

March 2023 Vol. XLIII, No. 03

## **A Message to the Congregation from the Board of Trustees**

A major project will be commencing very soon to alleviate the problem/damage from water infiltration through the stone wall and chimney of the education/office portion of St. John's facing Main Street.

This work, known as re-pointing, will be done by Disciple Masonry and requires removal/replacement of the mortar between the stones, replacement of the window lintels and sills, and coating/sealing of the entire surface area.

While all the stone walls of St. John's will have to be done eventually, this first part, we are calling Phase A, is the most important because this section is the area that needs immediate attention due to its deteriorating condition. Photographs of the Phase A area can be found on page 2 of the Enlightener.

The cost of Phase A is \$73,345 which was approved by council on February 13, 2023, and will be taken from Capital Funds. Additional phases have yet to be scheduled and will require further funding in order to continue with this much needed undertaking.

We will endeavor to keep you informed as to the progress of this project and are available to answer whatever questions you may have.

Dan Panachyda  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

*These photos show the areas on the chimney section where mortar is missing thus allowing water to infiltrate the building and causing interior damage. The entire wall below the chimney has the same problem but to a slightly lesser degree. The lighter mortar shown was improperly done and will need to be ground down to ensure that this problem does not happen again.*





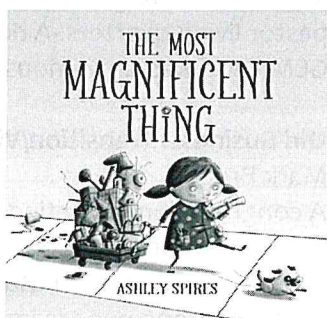


*March celebrates Women's History. Here are some "Rev. Sue Favorite" books to read to learn about and be inspired by these women's and girls' insights and actions.*

### The Most Magnificent Thing

by Ashley Spires

A little girl and her canine assistant set out to make the most magnificent thing. But after much hard work, the girl gets frustrated, and quits. Her assistant suggests a long walk, and as they walk, it slowly becomes clear what the girl needs to do to succeed. A charming story that will give kids the most magnificent thing: perspective!



### She Persisted



She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World  
by Chelsea Clinton

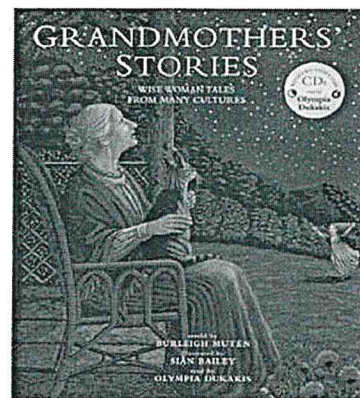
Persistence is power. This book introduces tiny feminists, mini activists, and little kids who are ready to take on the world

to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, persisted! Featuring: Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, Virginia Apgar, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges, Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey, Sonia Sotomayor—and one special cameo.

### Grandmothers' Stories

by Burleigh Muten

The stories in this anthology illustrate many of the qualities of the wise woman, offering readers of all ages a new perspective on the grandmother character that is usually presented in fairy tales as either menacingly evil or dim-witted and useless. With spirited grandmothers from as far afield as Senegal and Sweden, all of these tales are rich with humor, action and suspense.



### Notes from Church Council



#### Financial Report: Grace Bruen

January was a good start to 2023! Total income of \$65,751.90 well exceeded expenses of \$51,575.57. As noted in the Herald, January income includes \$10,545 reallocated from GEM and Emergency Fund (in memory of Rev. Sue) at the request of Bob Bertolette.

Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) were \$4,458.75. Our monthly goal is \$4,022.66, meaning St John's started the year in a good place to reach the annual goal.

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

#### Staff Reports: Ministry Strength Assessment:

**Rev. Dale Davis, Rev. Addie Stong, Andrew Paulson**  
Rev. Dale and Pastor Addie met with the confirmation class and discussed community building.

The Lenten Book study will begin Wednesday, March 1, and continue for 6 Wednesday evenings in person and on Zoom. The book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass will be discussed.

[continued on next page]

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

The Children's choir continues to meet on Wednesdays on Zoom and in person on Sunday mornings. The choir will sing in worship on February 19.

**Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:**

Whites Road Park has been reserved for Easter Sunrise service on April 9. Plains Mennonite Church was contacted for church picnic on June 25. Copies of the updated address directory are available.

**Board Reports:**

Deacons:

Social Hour will be held weekly after worship. Deacons will fill in when needed.

Educators:

In-person Sunday School was held February 5 and will continue the first Sunday of each month. Goodie Box donations can be dropped off in the library until February 26.

Elders:

Ash Wednesday dinner on February 22 will be pizza, salad, and dessert. Liturgists are needed: the Elders will plan an information session for those interested in being a liturgist.

January Attendance

Date	8 AM	10:15 AM	Total/Week
1/1		65	65
1/8	24	110	134
1/15	22	124	146
1/22	28	88	116
1/29		171	171
Total/Month=632			
Average/Week=126			

Trustees:

Exterior pointing of Sunday School wall and chimney facing Main Street will cost \$74,687.86. If Council moves ahead with the project, it will be communicated with the congregation.

**New Business: Benevolence Activities/Funds Management:**

[continued at right]

Rick O'Connor:

Several efforts are underway to improve the processes St. John's has for distribution of benevolence funds. To address security issues associated with the distribution of gift cards, St. John's now makes available an information flyer that details the contact information for several local support groups.

Request from Rev. Mark:

St. John's received a request from Rev. Mark of Vision and Mission Ministries to aid in repairs to a 4-story damaged building in India. The building houses orphans, meeting rooms, a worship center, and pastor living quarters. A donation of \$250 from the GEM Fund was unanimously approved.

**Old Business: Transition/Visioning Team Update:**

Mark Bruen:

A congregational meeting was held January 29 to inform the congregation of updates. Another meeting is planned for May to present updates and progress. Concerns are important and are requested to be shared with Mark or Liz Rivett.

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

**ARTICLES DUE FOR APRIL ISSUE  
ON MARCH 12**

- † Palm Sunday
- † Prayer Vigil
- † Maundy Thursday
- † Good Friday
- † Holy Saturday
- † Easter Services
- † Earth 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 (basket on top) 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





Manna on Main Street depends on churches like St. John's to help meet the needs of our neighbors who face food insecurity. Your donations of nutritious food and necessary household items (toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies) are needed every week throughout the year.

Please bring your donations with you when you come to church. You may place the items on the Manna shelves in the Narthex. The Outreach Team delivers your donations to Manna every week.

For a list of the items most needed each week, go to [mannaonmain.org](http://mannaonmain.org) and click give-food/what-is-needed.

Manna asks that we follow these guidelines:

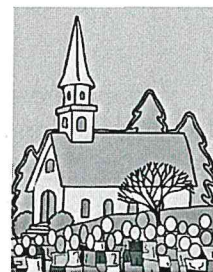
- Donations of food should be healthy and nutritious.
- No extra-large cans or packages.
- No clothing or linens.
- No open or partially used items.
- No soda or candy.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Sharon Rowling, wife of Charles (brother-in-law of Mark and Karen Methlie); Ruth Leslie, mother of Bill, Laurie, and Fred; Bruce Hemmerle, uncle of Sally Atkiss; Charles James Snyder, son of Jerry and Mary Ellen; Paul Cope, husband of Sue (sister-in-law of Ruth Kinsey), father of Brian; Edna Decker; and Richard Bowers, who passed away recently.*



## Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: The Heidelberg College Concert Choir presented a concert as part of their 1993 tour.



Twenty-five Years Ago: Three teachers of the culinary arts and baking program at North Montco Vo-Tech taught Boy Scout Explorers cooking and baking skills. Resulting activities included preparing dinner for the congregation or Manna, or a fundraiser.

Twenty Years Ago: Following the introduction of *The New Century Hymnal* to St. John's, the remaining inventory of *The Tabernacle Hymnal*, *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*, and *The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ* were available following worship on March 30 to be claimed by anyone interested in owning one.

Fifteen Years Ago: Lansdale native Kathryn Rhyne, soprano, presented a concert that included a variety of genres of music. She was accompanied by Carmen Richards on the piano.

Ten Years Ago: On March 17 the Stewardship Committee hosted social hour as a thank-you to the congregation for all the time, talent, and tithes contributed to the mission of the church.

Five Years Ago: Amos the Church Mouse reminded us that, in coming together in worship we can encourage one another, cheer each other on, and remind each other that we do not face the challenges of life and faith alone.

One Year Ago: A notice was published in the *Enlightener* concerning St. John's Directory. Many addresses and phone numbers in the current pictorial directory issued in 2016 had changed, so a new directory was planned to be published in the summer. New information could be included in the directory by completing a form printed in the *Enlightener*. Forms were also available in the Narthex. Another option was to email the information to the church office.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for March 2023. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information.



## 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 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

**2023**

March 5	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
March 12	Kelly Bresadola
March 19	Gale Linderman
March 26	Pete Probst

Reminder: The requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$35. Thank you!

March 5

In memory of Sarah Falzone's March 10th birthday from her daughter, Pam, and Ray, Jessica, and Alex Ace

March 12

In memory of Christian E. Wurster's March 15th birthday from Christine Wiley  
Remembering with love, Wallace and Kier MacKinstry on St. Patrick's Day, and Granny's March 16th birthday, from Jean MacKinstry Rogers and the MacKinstry/Rogers family

March 19

In memory of Ruthanne Harrison's March 20th birthday from her daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Wayne Bailey  
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Umstead and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gehman from Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Umstead  
In memory of Lester Long from his wife, Rachel, and family

March 26

In memory of his parents, Gerald and Edith Linderman, on their March 26th wedding anniversary, and in memory of his brother Mark, from Gerry and Grace Linderman  
In memory of daughter Lesley Brown's March 31st birthday, and in memory of her husband, Ian Brown, from Vivienne Brown  
In loving memory of Louise (Grammie) Snyder's March 30th birthday from her family



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

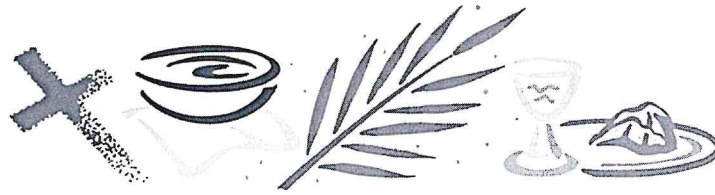


We welcomed new member Zack Eliaz on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Zack has been attending church regularly with us since last summer after moving back to the area from California. I just love that he found us by searching for an all-affirming and accepting congregation! He has been very interested in getting involved in the life and ministry of St. John's. Zack has already joined the knitting group that meets monthly and is creating beautiful pieces while helping others with their projects. The prayer blanket he's working on is exquisite. Another hobby of Zack's is playing the guitar. Perhaps we can look forward to hearing that some day! Please take a minute to say "hello" to Zack next time you see him!

St. John's received a Retirement Distribution Check from Fidelity Brokerage Services. There is no name or envelope number written in the memo section of the check or on the stub. The office did not receive a phone call or email regarding the check, so we have no idea who the check is from or how the funds should be distributed. If you believe this distribution check is from your retirement account, please call Lisa in the church office, 215.855.5489.

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	January 2023	January 2023
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	49,727.61	49,727.61
Event Income/Fundraisers	1,094.00	1,094.00
Flowers	245.00	245.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	3,150.00
Use-of-Building income	750.00	750.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	71.95	71.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	16.51	16.51
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,055.07</b>	<b>55,055.07</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>55,055.07</b>	<b>55,055.07</b>
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,391.46	35,391.46
Elders Expenses	315.36	315.36
Deacons Expenses	704.32	704.32
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,921.05	1,921.05
Building Operation Expenses	6,418.34	6,418.34
Operating Expenses	6,726.49	6,726.49
Miscellaneous Expenses	90.55	90.55
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>51,575.57</b>	<b>51,575.57</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>3,479.50</b>	<b>3,479.50</b>
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
<b>Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers</b>	<b>14,176.33</b>	<b>14,176.33</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	3,450.00	3,450.00
Benevolence Offerings	9,156.25	9,156.25
Special Accounts	2,563.25	2,563.25
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>15,169.250</b>	<b>15,169.250</b>
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	4,364.94	4,364.94
Benevolence Disbursements	13,120.25	13,120.25
Special Fund Expenditures	11,077.96	11,077.96
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>28,563.15</b>	<b>28,563.15</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-13,393.65</b>	<b>-13,393.65</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-9,914.15</b>	<b>-9,914.15</b>
<b>Net Income Plus Transfers</b>	<b>782.68</b>	<b>782.68</b>

# Lent and Easter at St. John's



## Ash Wednesday—February 22

6pm—Dinner provided by the Elders (Pizza, salad, drinks, dessert)

7pm—Join us for worship with communion, imposition of ashes, and music by Chancel Choir and organ.

## Every Wednesday in Lent beginning March 1—April 5

7pm—Lenten Book Study on “Freeing Jesus” by Diana Butler Bass

Meeting in person with hybrid Zoom option available, more information to come.

To register, call Lisa in the office at 215-855-5489 or email [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org).

## Palm Sunday—April 2

10:15am—Join us for ONE WORSHIP SERVICE including a “palm procession” to usher us into Holy Week

4pm—St. John's Artist Series presents *Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living*. Continue your Holy Week journey with a powerful afternoon featuring the St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends, soprano soloist Julie Frey, and musicians from Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra.

## Maundy Thursday—April 6

7pm—Join us for an intimate, interactive worship experience around tables in Assembly Hall including communion and music by piano and cello.

## Good Friday—April 7

7pm—Join us for a moving worship service that includes a dramatic reading of the Passion story and music by Chancel Choir and organ

## Easter Sunday—April 9

7am—Join us for our outdoor sunrise worship at the bandshell @ White's Road Park with music by the Children's Choir and United Ringers.

10:15am—Worship @ St. John's with music by the brass ensemble, Chancel Choir, United Ringers, and organ.

\*Both worship services will include communion



ST. JOHN'S  
*Artist Series*

JOIN US FOR OUR FINAL CONCERTS IN THE 2022-2023 SEASON

*Dan Forrest's  
Requiem for the Living  
Sunday, April 2, 2023, 4pm*

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

*Doppelflöte  
Sunday, April 23, 2023, 4pm  
Melissa Freilich, flute • Vincent M. Ryan, organ*

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**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+**

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**\$500-\$999**

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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](http://www.stjohnsartistseries.org/make-a-donation).

