

Four Quadrants of Visioning

Enlightener

April 2023 Vol. XLIII, No. 04

Worship & Faith Formation

(Leitourgia – public worship or work of the people)

The focus here is on what shape or shapes might worship take for a forward-looking congregation. How might various types of worship meet the needs of those who want a more intimate way to connect their faith to everyday life, and how might those attending worship find new ways to contribute beyond singing or responding to liturgy? What would spiritual growth and development look like across ages and generations? Are there new approaches to adult education, confirmation, and faith formation for children and youth to envision?

Fellowship & Care

(Koinonia – community or fellowship)

Are there ways to create new niches for groups to form as a way to discover care, support, to learn and experience joy? Could groups that might hike, or bike, or bake, come together in a whole new way to worship, celebrate, and support one another? Could seniors develop a ministry of “caring connection” in which visitors were also supported, equipped and celebrated?

Music

(Psalmoi – music)

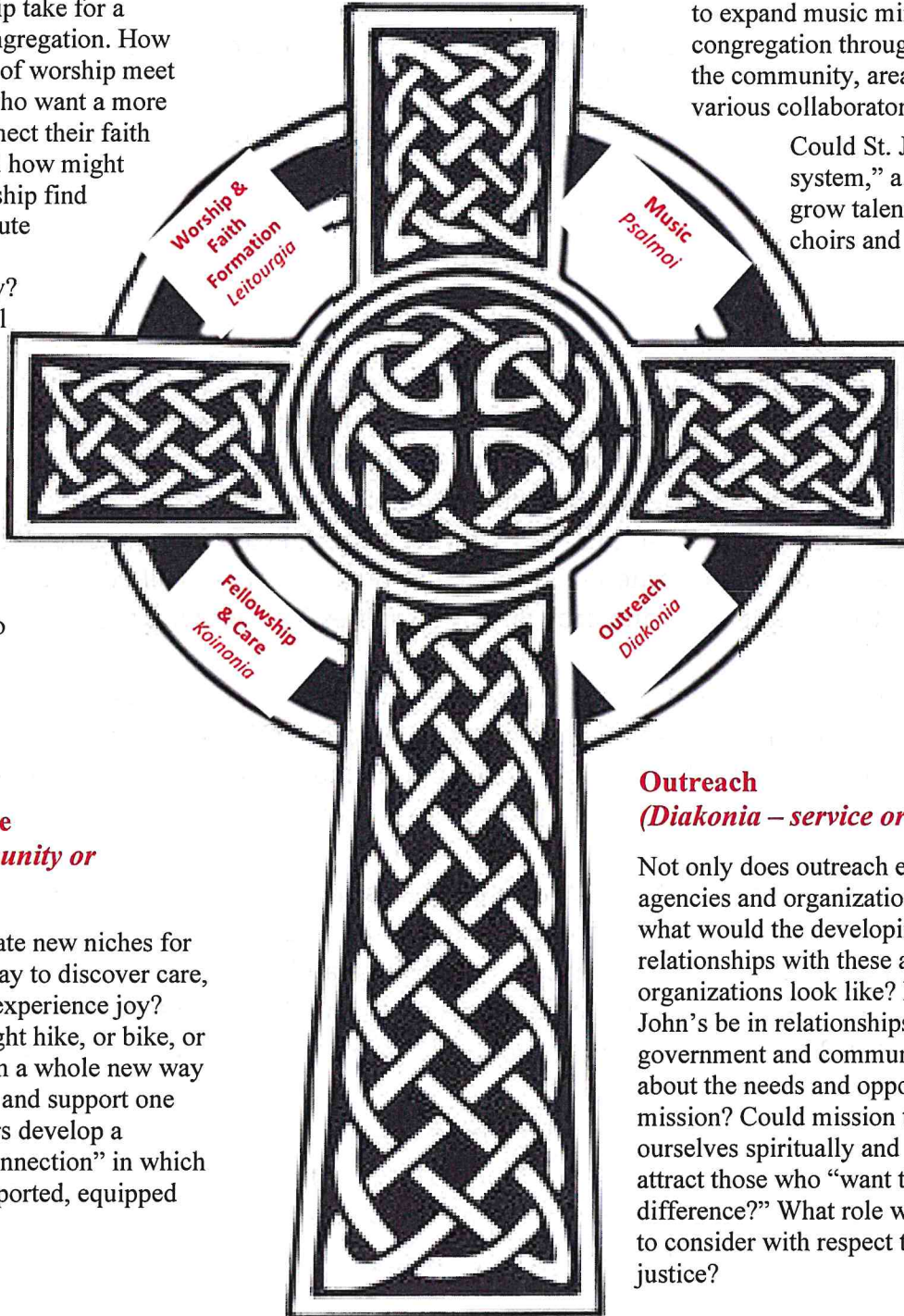
Not only has music had a strong legacy at St. John's, but is there an opportunity to expand music ministry beyond the congregation through partnerships within the community, area colleges, and various collaborators?

Could St. John's create a “farm system,” a way to mentor and grow talent toward various choirs and beyond at St. John's?

Outreach

(Diakonia – service or support)

Not only does outreach entail supporting agencies and organizations financially, but what would the developing of close relationships with these agencies and organizations look like? How could St. John's be in relationships with local government and community leaders to learn about the needs and opportunities for mission? Could mission trips serve to grow ourselves spiritually and at the same time attract those who “want to make a difference?” What role would St. John's like to consider with respect to issues of social justice?



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

- Margaret J. Wheatley, writer, teacher, speaker, and management consultant

At this week's Church Council meeting, Sally Atkiss presented the Opening Reflections which included the quote above. This is the work of the St. John's Vision team. In February we identified four main areas or quadrants to focus our visioning work as shown in the Celtic Cross graphic on the cover: Worship and Faith Formation, Music, Fellowship and Care, and Outreach.

In March, April and into May we will engage in dialogue with the congregation related to these four areas using a technique called “SOAR”:

Strengths
Opportunities
Aspirations
Results

To begin the process to gather your input and opinions, we will be having our first visioning session on Sunday, March 26 after worship in the Assembly Hall. The SOAR technique will be explained further at our visioning session and will be used to allow everyone to provide their input and vision to our team. We will schedule additional sessions following Easter for the other three quadrants. Please continue to read your Herald, listen for announcements in church and refer to the weekly schedule listed in our bulletin. There will be a bulletin board set up to continue to share updates and provide opportunities for everyone to participate.

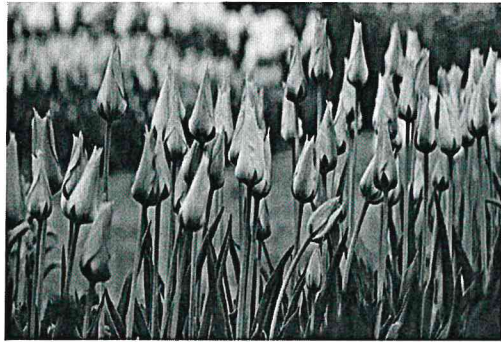
This work will help us prepare the Church Profile required for the Search and Call for a settled senior pastor. We need to answer the questions “Who are we?”, “Who is our neighbor?”, and “Who is God calling us to be?” Candidates will want to understand and share our vision and feel called to be our leader and guide to help us achieve our vision.

Sally concluded her remarks with the following: “Dale’s sermon struck a chord with me yesterday (March 12) and with others who I talked to. He told us ‘Change is uncomfortable.’ Dale encouraged us ‘to pay attention in the neutral zone and we will find living water.’ So, let’s pay attention now. Let’s discover what St. John’s cares about, what we will care about 5 years from now, 20 years from now, and we will find living water and be nourished.”

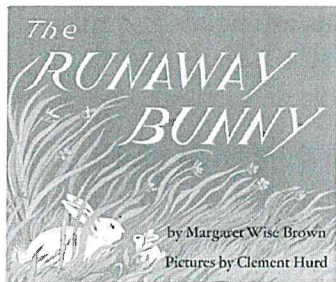
Visioning Team

Mark Bruen, Lead	Don Atkiss	Sally Atkiss	Sumiko Booraem	Grace Bruen
Jessica Carson	Rev. Dale Davis	Zack Elias	Amy Faga	Susan Fitzpatrick
	Bill Leslie	Janet Morton	Liz Rivett	

APRIL 2023



April brings thoughts of bunnies and spring flowers. These three books will delight you with their warm feelings and messages of kindness. Enjoy reading them to yourself or aloud. See if you can tell why Rev. Sue appreciated these books so much!



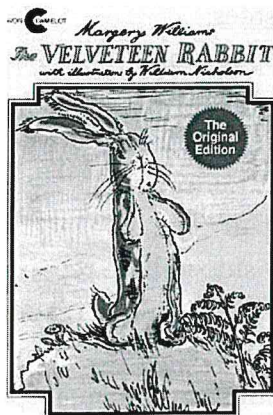
The Runaway Bunny
By Margaret Wise Brown

A little bunny keeps running away from his mother in an imaginative game of verbal hide-and-seek. Children will be

comforted by this lovingly steadfast mother who finds her child every time. First published in 1942 and never out of print, this book has indeed become a classic. Generations of readers have fallen in love with the gentle magic of its reassuring words and loving pictures.

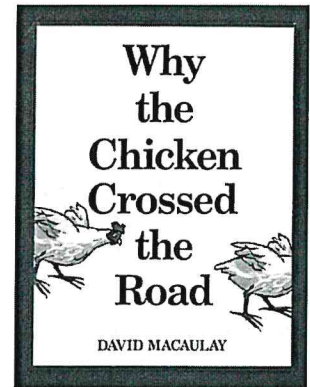
The Velveteen Rabbit
By Margery Williams

This children's book is regarded in many lists as one of the best ever written, and very rightfully so. For its simplicity, it is highly enjoyable for children; for its meaning, enjoyable for adults. Utterly endearing and touching to no end, with an unforgettable lesson on love and life.



Why the Chicken Crossed the Road
By David Macaulay

A rollicking investigation of cause and effect by the Caldecott medalist. The tale of the chicken and Desperate Dan, a bandit, told in beautiful full-color pictures and leavened by the trademark wit of David Macaulay.
Grades 1 and up



THE BASKET RAFFLE IS BACK!



We're happy to announce the Basket Raffle is on for 2023!

It's not too soon to start planning your basket.

Individuals, families, and church groups are encouraged to donate a "themed basket" to be raffled off at the Church Picnic, June 25. Signup sheets are in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby. If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at 215.896.0381 (text or phone). Baskets are due in the church office May 21. All proceeds will help fund the exterior renovation project.

BIRTHDAY CAKE BAGS

If you or someone you love has a birthday in April, consider sharing your birthday with someone else. Make a Birthday Cake Bag. Take a bag, plain or fancy, and put in it a baking pan, cake mix, icing tub, sprinkles, candles, and perhaps a card and small gift. Bring it to church and put it where food for Manna is placed. This will certainly brighten someone's birthday.





What's Happening in Council?

Financial Report – Matt Carson

February was a good month for St. John's financially with total income of \$51,934.59 (which includes the \$10,696.83 investment transfer) exceeding expenses of \$49,342.66 by over 5%. While income did exceed expenses it's important to note tithes and offerings were \$35,564.12, over 21% short of the budgeted goal of \$45,491.00, but still beating the 6-year average of \$31,609.97. Building operating expenses were within budget, thanks to mild weather leading to no costs for snow removal and lower than expected heating fuel costs for the month. The total received for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) was \$4,016.50, with \$8,475.25 year-to-date. Our annual goal for OCWM is \$48,272, or \$4,022.66 a month, we continue to be on pace to reach the annual goal.

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

Staff Reports:

Ministry Strength Assessment

(team start report by Rev. Dale Davis, Rev. Addie Stong, Andrew Paulson)

- Dale continues to work with the transition team.
- The Lenten Book study, *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass, began Wednesday, March 1. Each week, 26 people attend either in person or via Zoom.
- Addie's sabbatical dates are August 13 to November 13.
- Andrew stated Holy Week services will be planned at an off-site meeting.

[continued at right]

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

No report at this time.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

- Two families referred by St. Vincent de Paul have been helped for \$300 and \$350.
- Lansdale School of Business graduation ceremony will be held Friday, May 19, in the sanctuary.
- Girl Scouts will assist in worship Sunday, March 19.

Board Reports:

Deacons:

- Social hosts are needed.
- Church picnic is June 25 at Plains Mennonite Church. Menu to be determined.
- Three additional Deacons are needed to fill open positions.

Educators:

- Goodie boxes have been shipped to students.
- Sunday School was held on March 5 for nine children.
- Discussion for fall Sunday School planning began.

Elders:

- Lay ministry during Pastor Addie's sabbatical was discussed.
- Average attendance for both services combined was 149 a week for February. Attendance has been steadily increasing since July.

Trustees:

- Repointing Phase A is continuing. Council approved \$75,000 for this phase. The project will be updated in the Enlightener. The worst section causing water damage is currently under repair. The damaged windowsill on the parking lot side will be repaired as part of Phase B. Phase A will be sealed when completed. Sealer will be applied to the entire surface area of the church per manual specifications.

[continued on next page]

An issue with the chancel speakers needs to be addressed. Choir has difficulty hearing the service. Bob Bertollette will contact Clear Sound.

New Business:

St. Vincent de Paul benevolence

A motion to donate \$2,500 from the Emergency Fund to St. Vincent de Paul for the second quarter was passed unanimously. St. Vincent de Paul will report to St. John's which families were helped and how they were helped.

Contribution to Turkey/Syria earthquake victims

Donating to earthquake victims was discussed.*

*There is information on the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference website about how to donate to the earthquake recovery effort. Go to psec.org, click on *Disaster Recovery*, then go to "To learn more about the National Disaster Ministries, [click here](#)", then click on *global h.o.p.e.*

Climate Justice Grant application

See page 6 of this *Enlightener* for information on The Garden of Health.

Summer Services schedule/Pastor Addie's sabbatical

A proposal for one worship service beginning on Memorial Day weekend was presented to Council. The time proposed was 9:30 AM. A motion was passed unanimously to hold one worship service during summer months at 9:30 AM from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Old Business:

Visioning Team Update – Mark Bruen

On Sunday, March 26, the first congregational Visioning meeting will be held after church in Assembly Hall, focusing on the Music quadrant of the Celtic Cross (see front cover of this *Enlightener* for details).

Mark described for council the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) process, which will be used to facilitate the discussion with the congregation on March 26.

[continued at right]

The Visioning Team would like to invite younger families to join the team to help determine the path and future of St. John's. Please contact Mark or Liz if you are interested.

Members of the Visioning Core team are:

Dale Davis	Mark Bruen
Grace Bruen	Zack Eliaz
Susan Fitzpatrick	Amy Faga
Sally Atkiss	Don Atkiss
Bill Leslie	Janet Morton
Sumiko Booraem	Jessica Carson
Liz Rivett	

20 Years of
Goodie Boxes!!



Thanks to the ongoing generosity of St John's congregation, the Goodie Box program just completed its 20th year! Thanks to all who provided snacks, school supplies, personal items, and monetary contributions over the years. Without your support and kindness, this program would not be sustainable. Thanks also to all the students who provided Goodie Box photos and/or commentary. The congregation appreciates hearing from you and is eager to see you!

ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE

DEADLINE: APRIL 9

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

- ❖ Ascension Day
- ❖ Pentecost
- ❖ Confirmation
- ❖ Strengthen the Church Offering

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

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago:
April 25 was the last
day to submit recipes
for St. John's
Cookbook.



Twenty-five Years Ago: St. John's Parish
Nurse ministry (now the Health Ministry)
was established.

Twenty Years Ago: A new Garden Committee
was formed, with plans for landscaping
improvements, fundraising, and garden
maintenance.

Fifteen Years Ago: St. John's Junior Choir
joined 15 other church choirs to participate
in the North Penn Chorister Guild's Junior
Choir Festival at Central Schwenkfelder
Church.

Ten Years Ago: The PSEC held a Spring
Youth Event, *Jesus Freaks & God Geeks*, at
St. Paul's UCC in Birdsboro.

Five Years Ago: The Fireside Room and, just
across the hall, the Activity Room, were both
refurbished and transformed with fresh
paint, two new windows, and a drop ceiling.

One Year Ago: Rev. Kevin McLemore,
Associate Conference Minister for Search and
Call, explained the detailed search process to
St. John's Council for the replacement of
Rev. Sue after her retirement.



Our thoughts and prayers are
with the family and friends of
Ginny Collins and Tony
Lanzetta, cousin of Barbarann
Probst, who passed away
recently.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for April 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!*



April 2 **PALM SUNDAY**

In memory of Charles A. Pool Jr.'s April 4th birthday
from his family

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 9 **EASTER**

In memory of Carol Smith from Jim Smith, Anne, and
Dan

April 16

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

In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday
from his wife, Jean, and family

April 23

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



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 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

April 2	Sue & Mike Donahue
April 9	Melody Bergey
April 16	Sally & Steve Jarinko
April 23	Karen & Mark Methlie
April 30	Bonnie & Ken Hales

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	February 2023	Jan-Feb 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	35,564.12	85,291.73
Event Income/Fundraisers	223.00	1,317.00
Flowers	225.00	470.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	6,300.00
Use-of-Building Income	1,200.00	1,950.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	897.00	968.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	14.64	31.15
Total Income	41,273.76	96,328.83
Gross Income	41,273.76	96,328.83
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,222.64	70,614.10
Deacons Expenses	432.81	1,137.13
Educators Expenses	108.78	108.78
Elders Expenses	200.64	516.00
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,746.66	3,675.71
Building Operation Expenses	5,754.26	12,172.60
Operating Expenses	5,876.87	12,603.36
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	90.55
Total Expense	49,342.66	100,918.23
Net Ordinary Income	-8,068.90	-4,589.40
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	10,696.83	21,393.66
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	2,627.93	16,804.26
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	7,256.00	10,706.00
Benevolence Offerings	5,778.34	14,934.59
Special Accounts	6,320.80	8,884.05
Total Other Income	19,355.14	34,524.64
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	5,599.88	9,964.82
Benevolence Disbursements	4,277.50	17,397.75
Special Fund Expenditures	38,148.40	49,226.36
Total Other Expense	48,025.78	76,588.93
Net Other Income	-28,670.64	-42,064.29
Net Income	-36,739.54	-46,653.69
Net Income Plus Transfers	-25,742.71	-25,260.03

FROM THE CREATION STEWARDS



We are excited about a new venture in Hatfield called the Garden of Health (gardenofhealthinc.org). They are establishing an 8-acre organic farm across from Hatfield Meat Packing (near Lowes). They will grow organic crops to meet the special dietary needs of low-income families. Garden of Health relies on volunteers to help maintain the gardens, pick the produce, and deliver it to area food banks. The Creation Stewards are hoping to get volunteers from St. John's to work at the farm two days a month. One day will be during the week, another on a Saturday or Sunday for those who cannot volunteer during the week. People of all ages, including children, are encouraged to help. They will have 300 raised garden beds, some of which have handicap access. Someone from the group will meet us and direct us how to help. Volunteers are needed beginning in May.

St. John's has applied to the UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference for a 50-50-50 Climate grant. If approved, PSEC will donate \$250 to us for the Garden of Health. St. John's will match that with \$250 from the GEM fund. We also committed to raise at least \$250 from the congregation. You can donate by sending a check to St. John's with a note on the check that it is for the Garden of Health. We can ask that the donations be used to purchase supplies for their gardens, particularly the raised beds.

Carol Bauer, the President of GOH, will be present at our 10:15 service on April 16, the beginning of Earth Week, to explain their program. She will be available at the social gathering after the service for those interested in getting more information.

This is a great opportunity for St. John's members to put into action our commitment to care for God's creation and to address inequality. We want to get more involved in the local community, and this is a great first step. Please consider volunteering. Signup sheets for the days we are working will be available starting with the April 16 services. If you cannot make the specific dates, you can volunteer at any time by signing up on their website. Bring the whole family!

More from the Creation Stewards

Several veterans and I, of VFW Post 32 in Lansdale, have started an "Eagles Autism Challenge" team. This charity, run by the Eagles, funds research and activities toward working with the kids on the autism spectrum. We are collecting donations by check and will forward them to the Eagles to meet our goal. This year's challenge will finish with a grand event at the Lincoln Financial Field. Checks can be given to Rickie Sands, the church office, or at VFW Post 32 on 2nd Street. Checks should be made payable to Eagles Autism Challenge.

Rickie Sands



MONTCO PA
RECYCLES



MontcoPARecycles.org

Hazardous
Waste
Collection

Saturday, May 6

Oak Ridge Elementary School, 465 Moyer
Road, Harleysville
Register Online at Harleysville HHW Event
at eventbrite.com



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

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
Karen & Mark Methlie • 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. Overwise & John B. Overwise Jr.
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Up to \$99

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

All attempts are made to display an accurate patron list. Please notify us of any errors.

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.

