



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

# *Enlightener*

*May 2023 Vol. XLIII, No. 05*

## **Hello St. John's from the Visioning Team!**

We trust you have started to see and feel the activities and accomplishments of the Visioning team as we use our four quadrants of Visioning (**Worship and Faith Formation, Fellowship and Care, Outreach, and Music**) to answer these 3 questions:

**Who are we?      Who is our neighbor?      What is God calling us to be?**

Change is hard and can be uncomfortable at times. Consider this:

**"There is no growth in your comfort zone,  
and there is no comfort in your growth zone."**

We are all called to grow in God's love through caring for each other and serving our neighbor - **ALL of us**. The young and young at heart. The families who have been at St. John's for generations and those who have recently found our wonderfully motley crew. Our Visioning process will lead us to our chosen growth paths – ones that will challenge us to serve God and lead each other in new ways, preparing us for future generations at St. John's.

### **Update on Visioning Session – Music:**

We held our first congregational visioning session on the Music quadrant. There was great turnout, and we had a very dynamic session, using the SOAR process (**S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, and **R**esults.) in small groups. The SOAR process is a structured group exercise where each group considers questions posed to help us think about who we are as a church and what we aspire to be. The questions we used for Music are shared on the following page.

### **Upcoming Congregation Visioning Sessions and engagement opportunities:**

Sessions will be held in Assembly Hall following 10:15 worship on May 7 & 12 and following 9:30 worship on June 4.

- |                              |                                      |   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| • <b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Fellowship &amp; Care</b>         | Questions can be found on the following page. |
| • <b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Outreach</b>                      | Questions are in development.                 |
| • <b>June 4<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Worship &amp; Faith Formation</b> | Questions are in development.                 |

If you are not able to attend one of the in-person sessions, please contact any of the Visioning Team members, or send an email to [exec@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:exec@st-johns-ucc.org) and we will work with you to gather your input. We will dedicate time at our upcoming Congregational meeting (**June 25<sup>th</sup> following the 9:30 service**) for this topic as well.

### **Visioning/Transition Timeline Overview:**

We are making good progress. The Visioning Team is organizing the responses from our first Visioning session and preparing for the analysis phase. We will use insights generated to shape our Vision for St. John's which will guide us in the creation of our church profile. All of this is in support of our ultimate goal: Calling a settled Senior Pastor who is called by God to help us achieve our Vision.

- **Visioning (6-8 months):** Initiated in March, includes Visioning sessions inclusive of insight generation.
- **Church Profile (1-3 months):** Expected to start in the fall, translating our Vision into the Church Profile.
- **Search for Settled Pastor (6-12 months):** Expected to start late 2023/early 2024.

### **We want your engagement!**

- Please attend Visioning sessions to generate ideas for our future vision and bring your friends!
- If you are unable to attend a session, send your SOAR for the Music and Fellowship and Care quadrants to the Exec email address: [exec@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:exec@st-johns-ucc.org) Include 'Visioning' in the subject line of your email.
- Check out our bulletin board in the Library for status and more information.
- Look for other opportunities to join us in the process, as we roll them out to the congregation.

Thank you all for your support and engagement as we carefully and prayerfully shape our future Vision for St. John's. Please contact me or any of the Visioning team members if you have any questions or comments.

Yours in Christ,  
Mark Bruen  
Visioning Team Leader

## Questions for Music Quadrant

### **Strengths**

- In what ways has St John's music ministry excelled?
- What have been the most impactful aspects of the ministry of music from your perspective?
- What does St John's do with respect to its music program and strategy better than any other church you are aware of?

### **Opportunities**

- What kinds of partnerships might strengthen our connection to the community and reach more kinds of people?
- What gaps currently exist within our music program and ministry?
- What kinds of trends do we notice and can take advantage of given our strengths in the area of music?

### **Aspirations**

- How could the music program look different, even better, five years from now? What would it look like? What would be happening?
- When it comes down to the music program and ministry, what do you care deeply about?
- What steps do you think need to happen for St John's to reach a whole new segment of people who are passionate and care about music?

### **Results**

- What would we want to measure in our future program and ministry of music that would tell us we are meeting a deep human need?
- How would we know we are successful beyond simply hustling for people and money?
- What values would we need to be both clear and explicit about that would guide our missions and purpose?

## Questions for Fellowship and Care Quadrant

### **Strengths**

- When, and in what instances, has fellowship and community been strongest and most impactful at St. John's?
- In what specific ways have the people of St. John's experienced belonging and caring for one another?
- At St. John's, what makes the level of caring and sharing unique from other churches?

### **Opportunities**

- What issues, circumstances, challenges, and struggles do those within the wider community experience and carry that are life-depleting?
- What opportunities could St. John's provide that might help bring support, hope, engagement, and a sense of belonging to others?
- What partnerships might allow us to have access in providing support, fellowship, and hope for others?

### **Aspirations**

- Describe the kinds of events, programs, and groups that might have the effect of attracting others from the greater community to the St. John's community.
- What kind of education, skills, infrastructure, and insights would be needed to become more hospitable both within the community of St. John's as well as position St. John's to reach out to others?
- What steps need to happen for St. John's to reach a whole new segment of people who would not consider affiliating with a church?

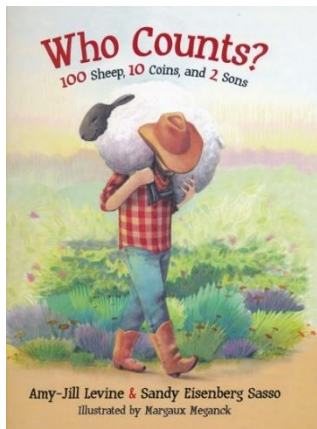
### **Results**

- How would we know St. John's is successful and faithful in growing and fostering community beyond simply hustling for people and money?
- How would we know, and what would be able to say, if St. John's was meeting deep needs beyond the current congregation?
- What values would need to be both clear and explicit that would guide St. John's mission and purpose in fostering community?



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April showers bring May flowers; what do May flowers bring? Yes, Mayflowers bring Pilgrims, but also these three charming “Rev. Sue Favorites” for reading, reflecting, and enjoying!



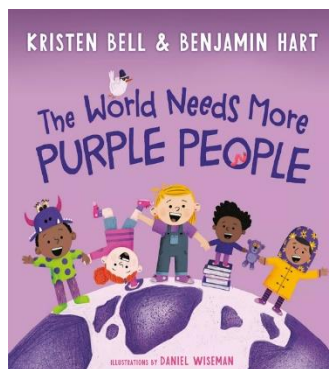
### Who Counts?

By Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso  
Oh, no! The man is missing his sheep. The woman is missing her coin. The father is missing his son. Can you help them find what they are looking for?

*Who Counts?* is a creative retelling of three popular parables. As young readers count to help the characters find what's missing, *Who Counts?* teaches that everyone of us counts in God's eyes, and that everyone should feel counted.

### The World Needs More Purple People

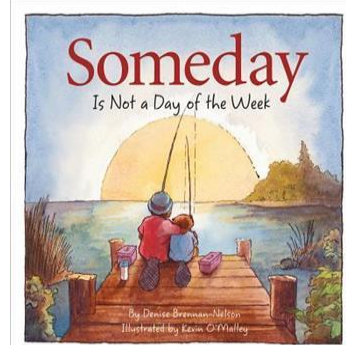
By Kristen Bell & Benjamin Hart



*The World Needs More Purple People* is designed to teach early elementary children that they should be inquisitive, humorous, kind, outspoken, diligent, and authentic, which are all essential qualities indeed, and according to the protagonist, Penny, all needed to become a purple person.

### Someday Is Not a Day of the Week

By Denise Brennan-Nelson  
What if someday never happens?



As the Buddha said, “The thing is, we think we have time.” Sam Horn is a woman on a mission about not waiting for SOMEDAY, and this is her manifesto. Her dad's dream was to visit all the National Parks when he retired. He worked six to seven days a week for decades. A week into his long-delayed dream, he had a stroke. Sam doesn't want that to happen to you. The surprising insights about what makes people happy or unhappy, what they're doing about it (or not), and why, will inspire you to carve out time for what truly matters now, not later.

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*Lorene Ahrens  
will be 95 on  
May 13!*



*Deb, Paul, and Tim Ahrens invite the St. John's congregation to join us after worship during coffee hour on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, in celebrating our Mother Lorene's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday! Birthday cake and other goodies will be provided; cards welcome!*

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## NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL



### **Special Topic—Alternative Gift Market: Amy Faga**

Amy Faga presented plans for the 2023 Alternative Gift Market to be held on October 15, 2023, rain or shine. The AGM supports local, national, and international charities.

The hope is for the AGM to be held outdoors between Main Street and the alley on Richardson Avenue. This will bring more visibility to St. John's. Local businesses have been contacted to sell lunch items between 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM. They will be asked for a free-will donation. Youth will be contacted to sell lemonade and live music will be provided.

Additional help with tables/chairs will be solicited at a later date. Ideas for promotion are requested. In inclement weather, the AGM will be held in the Assembly Hall.

### **Financial Report: Matt Carson**

March was not a good month for St. John's financially. Income of \$39,126.05 fell short of our expenses of \$54,792.06 by 28.6%. Tithes and offerings of \$24,135.22 were below the 6-year average for March of \$31,877.73.

Annually the picture is better; with an annual income to date of \$156,848.54 exceeding total expenses of \$155,710.29. April is typically a good month and will hopefully see our financial situation remain positive at the annual level.

Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) were \$3,076.00. Our monthly goal is \$4,022.66, meaning we fell about 23.5% short.

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

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### **Staff Reports:**

#### **Ministerial Staff**

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

- The 6-week Lenten Book study, *Freeing Jesus*, by Diana Butler Bass has completed.
- The Holy Week worship series was strong and meaningful in content and style.
- Varied feedback was received on Holy Week services. The call was to present Holy Week with new meaning and a new team working together. The Easter Story was at the core of Easter week.

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

- Family choir will sing at the end of April.

#### **Lisa Delp, Office Administrator:**

- St. Vincent DePaul wrote a Thank You to St. John's (see page 6).
- Lilies in the Library are still available.

### **Board Reports:**

#### Deacons:

- Additional social hosts are needed.
- Deacons will be taking inventory of the kitchen and organizing closets.
- The church picnic is on June 25 at Plains Mennonite Church. Signups will be available in the next few weeks. Additional help will be requested based on signups.

#### Educators:

- In-person Sunday School was held April 9 with 11 children attending. In-person Sunday School will be held May 7 and June 4.
- The Easter egg hunt after the early service was well attended by 18 children.

#### Elders:

- Volunteers for liturgists will be needed during Addie's sabbatical. There will be a workshop for the volunteers to help them feel comfortable with these duties.
- Easter lilies were delivered to 37 homebound members, along with a card from St. John's stampers. Stampers are anticipating sending birthday cards to homebound members.

*[continued on next page]*



March 2023 Attendance			
Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total
3/5	23	104	127
3/12	27	139	166
3/19	23	116	139
3/26	29	131	160
Average per Week = 148			592

#### Trustees:

- Disciple Masonry has completed Phase A of repointing. Next phase will be Montessori School playground side when funds allow.
- Easier access is required into the tower AC unit for maintenance. Trustees are determining the best options.
- Insurance company paid to have an emergency panic button in the lectern. It is anticipated that a panic button will be installed in the narthex and/or the office.
- The sound system has been corrected.

#### **New Business:**

##### Zoom Accounts

A new email for a Zoom account website for the Executive Committee will be set up as a test. If successful, a Zoom account for each Board will be created.

##### Vision and Mission Update

St. John's donated \$250 at the February 13, 2023, Council meeting to help repair a damaged church in India. It is unknown how much additional funding has been received by other organizations. It was mentioned that the cost of repairs to the AC should be considered before additional funds are disbursed.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Visioning Team Update—Mark Bruen

The first major visioning session (Music) was held on Sunday, March 26. The ideas and brainstorming session went very well. The next 3 areas (Worship and Faith, Outreach, Fellowship and Care) will each have their own visioning sessions. Mark reminded Council the Vision Phase is 6 to 8 months, the Church profile is 1 to 3 months, and the Search and Call is 6 to 12 months.

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#### Addie's Sabbatical Planning

Staff has been discussing the daily, weekly, and monthly responsibilities and how time and energy can be budgeted during Addie's sabbatical.

#### Congregational Meeting

A meeting will be held between the 9:30 AM worship service and the church picnic on June 25. Items to be discussed:

- Visioning update
- Addie's sabbatical
- Midyear financial/budget review

Topics and questions from the congregation will be solicited.



#### **The Basket Raffle Is Back!**

If you signed up to donate a basket for the raffle, please bring your completed basket to the

church by May 21. Each basket should be wrapped in clear cellophane with a sign attached identifying the theme and the contents.

##### Dates to remember:

**May 21:** Completed baskets are due at the church.

**May 28:** Ticket sales begin and continue through June 25.

**June 25:** The basket raffle will take place at the Church Picnic.

The baskets will be displayed in the church on Sundays from May 28 through June 18, at Lansdale Day on June 3, and at the Church Picnic on June 25.

If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at 215.896.9381.

All proceeds will benefit the exterior renovation project.

*Our thoughts and prayers  
are with the family and  
friends of Ursula Bingham,  
grandmother of Becky  
Gordon; Ginny Collins; and  
Mathew Whitehead who  
passed away recently.*



## Chancel Flower

### Donations

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

Please review this list

and contact the church office if you would like to remove/add/update any information on the list.

*Reminder: requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$35.*

May 7

In memory of George and Dorothy Knipe and John and Diane Skibbe from Wendy and Phil Hunt and John Skibbe III

Happy 95th birthday on May 13 to Lorene K. Ahrens from her loving family

May 14 **MOTHER'S DAY**

In memory of their mothers, Ruth Ekberg and Mae Brown, from Sandy and Scott

In memory of Marie Evans from Jeane, Robert, and Beth Fritz

In memory of Mary Fritz from Robert, Jeane, and Beth Fritz

In memory of Lillian Wurster's birthday and Mother's Day from her daughter, Christine Wiley

In memory of Nancy Schultz on Mother's Day from her daughter, Merle Anne Morcom, and Walter Hawkins

In memory of Sue Wilson on Mother's Day from her daughters

In memory of Mary Franks from her parents, Donald and Suzanne Franks

In loving memory of her sister, Bonnie Stott, from Nancy Roberts

In memory of George Ruth's May 15th birthday from Chriss Bodde and family

In honor of the 102nd birthday of Grace Ehly on May 15th from her daughter, Dean Meacham

In memory of Daniel Elliott on our May 15th wedding anniversary from his wife, Elizabeth

May 21

Congratulations to Sandy and Scott Brown, who will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary on



## May 28 PENTECOST – CONFIRMATION

In memory of Michelle Snyder on her 35<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 29. Love, Mom, Dad and Jackie  
In memory of Philip Richart Jr.'s May 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, from Holly & Ken Fisher, and the Kim and John Milliron family

From Edna McGinley in memory of her mother Edna's June 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday

In memory of June Hendricks' June 1st birthday from her nephew, John, and Susan Hendricks

## ARTICLES DUE FOR JUNE ISSUE

### DEADLINE: MAY 14

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

- Ø Father's Day
- Ø Juneteenth
- Ø Graduates
- Ø 66th Anniversary of the UCC
- Ø 34th General Synod, Indianapolis

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.



During its March meeting, St. John's Council approved a proposal to give the Society of St. Vincent de Paul a lump-sum grant of \$2,500.00 for

the second quarter of the year from the Emergency Fund to be used at their discretion to help families in need. St. Vincent de Paul will submit a report to St. John's at the end of the quarter indicating where the money went and how this impacted our community. Below is a "thank you" from St. Vincent de Paul.

This is wonderful news! Please pass along our thanks to the Council for placing this trust in our conference of the SVDP. We will be glad to provide the quarterly report. Again, we are very thankful for your partnership!

Mary Chantry

President, Saint Vincent De Paul Society  
Saint Maria Goretti Church

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## Chancel Flower Ministry

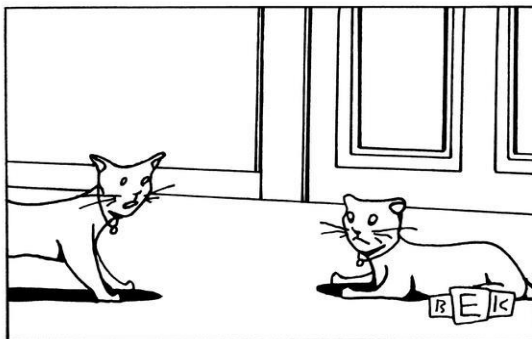


VFW POST 32 IN LANSDALE WILL CONDUCT THE PROPER CEREMONY TO RETIRE OLD FLAGS AND DISPOSE OF THEM BY PROPERLY BURNING THEM EACH YEAR, JUNE 14, ON FLAG DAY.

ST. JOHN'S LIBRARY IS A COLLECTION SITE FOR YOUR OLD FLAGS. CALL RICKIE SANDS AT 215.872.5645 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, OR I'LL SEE YOU AT CHURCH.

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO VIEW THE CEREMONY AT THE POST AT 805 WEST SECOND STREET.

FOR EACH YEAR'S DETAILS ON ATTENDING, CONTACT THE POST ON THE WEB AT [LANSDALEVFW.COM](http://LANSDALEVFW.COM) OR ON FACEBOOK AT [FACEBOOK.COM/LANSDALE.VFW](https://www.facebook.com/LANSDALE.VFW)



*"People are O.K., but I prefer little pieces of string."*

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

May 7	Judy & Bill Zoll
May 14	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
May 21	Audrey Hahn
May 28	Peter Conver

Summary Of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Mar 2023	Jan—Mar 2023
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	24,135.22	109,426.95
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	1,317.00
Flowers	640.00	1,110.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	9,450.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	1,950.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	504.00	1,472.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	16.75	47.90
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,445.97</b>	<b>124,774.80</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>28,445.97</b>	<b>124,774.80</b>
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	33,592.25	104,206.35
Elders Expenses	130.20	646.20
Deacons Expenses	803.62	1,940.75
Educators Expenses	223.62	332.20
Trustees/Building Expenses	4,650.80	8,326.51
Building Operation Expenses	6,016.19	18,188.79
Operating Expenses	9,072.39	21,675.75
Miscellaneous Expenses	302.99	393.54
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>54,792.06</b>	<b>155,710.29</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-26,346.09</b>	<b>-30,935.49</b>
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
<b>Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers</b>	<b>-15,649.26</b>	<b>-20,238.66</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	950.00	11,656.00
Benevolence Offerings	4,476.00	19,410.59
Special Accounts	3,706.84	12,590.89
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>9,132.84</b>	<b>43,657.48</b>
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	7,840.28	17,805.10
Benevolence Disbursements	5,783.34	23,181.09
Special Fund Expenditures	22,257.00	71,483.36
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>35,880.62</b>	<b>112,469.55</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-26,747.78</b>	<b>-68,812.07</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-53,093.87</b>	<b>-99,747.56</b>
<b>Net Income Plus Transfers</b>	<b>-42,397.04</b>	<b>-89,050.73</b>

## Were You There?

**Thirty Years Ago:** Sue Bertolette, Susan Clark Hanson, and Jerry Smith graduated from Lancaster Seminary on May 15.



**Twenty-five Years Ago:** The May 17 Congregational Dinner celebrated the grand reopening of Assembly Hall.

**Twenty Years Ago:** The Wider Church Ministries of the UCC initiated the Olive Branch Appeal to respond to the humanitarian crisis developing in Iraq.

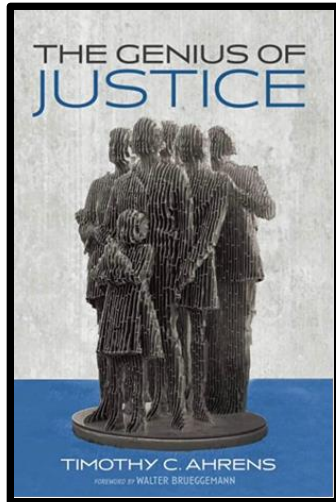
**Fifteen Years Ago:** The National Setting of the UCC and a group of writers offered a Daily Devotional to arrive in the inbox of your computer each morning.

**Ten Years Ago:** St. John's stitchers produced more than 150 school bags. The congregation was challenged to fill them with school supplies for children from families lacking the means to buy the supplies.

**Five Years Ago:** On Saturday, May 5, there was a 5K Run and Walk to benefit the Worm Project. The race started and ended at the Dock Mennonite Academy Stadium.

**One Year Ago:** St John's offered online giving, an alternative to cash or check donations. Members can still give via traditional methods but can now make one-time or recurring gifts with a credit/debit card or electronic check. The link, [app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc](http://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc) is on our website.





After writing hundreds of articles, letters to the editor, interviewing on TV, radio and podcasts, doing speeches and preaching around the country and after thousands of sermons over 37 years, Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens has published his first book. The book is entitled, “The Genius of Justice.” It was published in December 2022 by Cascade Books an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, Eugene, Oregon – [www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com). The book can be found at Wipf and Stock or online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Cokesbury and Christian Books, and more places.

Dr. Ahrens writes, “There are geniuses in every field of work and all walks of life. Throughout my life I have seen the geniuses of justice at work in this nation and in faith communities. This book tells the stories of 53 “geniuses of justice.” They are Conservative and Reform Jews, Mainline, Pentecostal, Evangelical and Catholic Christians, ‘spiritual but

not religious,’ women, men, black, brown, white, gay and straight, young and old. Each is a powerful witness for justice. Each has the ‘IT’ factor of justice burning in their bones. How did they become who they are? What drives them to do the right thing that is translatable to anyone, anywhere? These geniuses are ‘just folks’ who are justice folks. They can empower and teach of us to change the world right where we are.”

Through 20 chapters and 182 pages, Dr. Ahrens takes the reader on a journey into the biblical foundation of justice, the interior work of justice in the soul of each person, justice issues that really matter to the geniuses in this book and then finally to the outward journey of justice in each community in which we meet all kinds of justice doers. Prayer, Anger, Listening Deeply, Raising the Dead, Racism, Inclusion, Math, Moving the Needle, and more carry through 16 different states and several countries.

2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, writes, “In my Catholic tradition, we might call this book a litany! A litany of people whose passion is faith-rooted justice seeking. What glorious nourishment for these challenging times. Let us walk this path together seeking justice and joy.”

The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, Illinois writes, “In an era where conversations of faith, justice, compassion, and civility are marginalized and, in some cases, demonized as unpatriotic, Tim Ahrens has offered a precious literary balm to the wounded soul of a nation. We must listen and learn from prophetic voices demanding we reshape our civic discourse based on principles of compassion and just action.”

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, leading American advocate to abolish the death penalty and author of **Dead Man Walking** writes, “In ‘The Genius of Justice’ Tim Ahrens captures the spirit of God working in so many people in so many places. Perhaps you will be the next champion of justice as God touches your life in receiving the blessings of this book.”

Hebrew Scripture scholar, author of more than 100 books and widely considered the most influential biblical scholar for the past 40 years, Walter Brueggemann writes in the Forward to the book, “Tim Ahrens, in this book, has rendered us a great service. He bears witness to a deep defining hyphen in biblical faith. It is the hyphen that connects faith to justice: Faith-justice.”

On Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Ahrens will teach his book from 9am-10am in the Adult Library between services. He will also be preaching at 8am and 10:15am that morning.



## JOIN US FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON

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### **Seipp/Sheets Duo: Chuck Seipp, trumpet • Randall Sheets, organ**

*Sunday, October 22, 2023, 4pm*

Trumpeter Chuck Seipp and organist Randall Sheets open the 2023-2024 season in grand fashion! The Seipp/Sheets Trumpet & Organ Duo is unlike any ensemble performing today. Custom musical arrangements of virtuoso, beautiful, entertaining, humorous, and patriotic selections enhance the exquisite blend of their instruments. Coupled visually with specialized videos, Seipp and Sheets craft a unique and engaging concert experience for all ages, creating extraordinary connection with their audiences. The duo's thoughtful programming, artistic arrangements and powerful, innovative, and interactive video presentations make the Seipp/Sheets Duo today's musicians to watch.

### **Christmas Festival**

*Sunday, December 10, 2023, 4pm*

Join us for our annual holiday tradition! Musicians from North Penn High School and St. John's come together for an afternoon of organ, choir, and brass. Classic carol settings, nostalgic brass arrangements, and a festive reception – this afternoon has it all. It's not the Christmas season without the St. John's Artist Series Christmas Festival!

### **Elaine Hagenberg's Illuminare**

*Sunday, March 24, 2024, 4pm*

*Illuminare* is Elaine Hagenberg's first extended work, consisting of five movements for SATB chorus and chamber orchestra. Using lesser-known sacred Latin, Greek, and English texts, the piece takes us through a season of beauty and goodness that has been disrupted by darkness and confusion. But as Light gradually returns, hope is restored, illuminating our future, and guiding us in peace. St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends are thrilled to present this new work!

### **Nick May, saxophone**

*Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4pm*

Heralded as "highly virtuosic" whose "artistry further imbues his performance with an unmatched sense of lyricism and expression, (Christina Ensign, Composer), saxophonist Nick May is sought after as a highly expressive, intuitive performer that "brings his personality to every performance - full of genuine joie de vivre!" (Javier Oviedo, Classical Saxophone Project) and quickly garnering attention for his compelling programs that have been described as "Incredible; bringing to life some of the best music that has ever been written." (Maestro Hughes, Arapahoe Philharmonic). We are thrilled to welcome Nick May to the St. John's Artist Series to conclude the 2023-2024 season!

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