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

Enlightener

June 2023 Vol. XLIII, No. 06

#### June Update from the Visioning Team!

We are excited about the progress St. John's is making as the congregation works with 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?

As we all look forward into the future, we are beginning to see where the church members envision we will be as we continue on this journey of change and thoughtful consideration of how we can serve Christ and strengthen our fellowship together.

#### Update on Visioning Sessions: Music - Fellowship and Care - Outreach

We have held three congregational visioning sessions on the Music, Fellowship and Care, and Outreach quadrants. There was a great turn-out and we had very dynamic sessions, using the SOAR process (<u>S</u>trengths, <u>O</u>pportunities, <u>A</u>spirations, and <u>R</u>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 Outreach (the latest session) are shared on the following page. (Please see last month's Enlightener for the questions for Music and Fellowship and Care.)

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

Sessions will be held in Assembly Hall following the 9:30am service.

- June 4<sup>th</sup> Worship & Faith Formation Questions are in development.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Evening Meeting with Younger Members and Young Families (see page 2)
- June 11th Meeting with Younger Members and Families after church (see page 2)
- Additional Weekday congregational discussions in June, dates TBD

If you were not able to attend one of the in-person sessions, please contact any of the Visioning Team members, or send an email to <u>Exec@st-johns-ucc.org</u> 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 9:30am service**) for this topic as well.

#### Visioning/Transition Timeline Overview:

The Visioning Team is analyzing the responses and information from our first three Visioning sessions and are preparing for the analysis phase. We are currently reviewing the data we collected and are looking for common threads and themes among them.

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 and 3 months have elapsed, 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: <u>exec@st-johns-ucc.org</u> Include 'Visioning' in the subject line of your email.
- Check out our bulletin board in the Elevator Lobby 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

#### Strengths

- In what ways have you experienced a mission emphasis at St. John's?
- Is there a particular mission endeavor or outreach that has captured your attention and support?
- What do you believe St. John's has done well when it comes to mission and outreach?

#### Opportunities

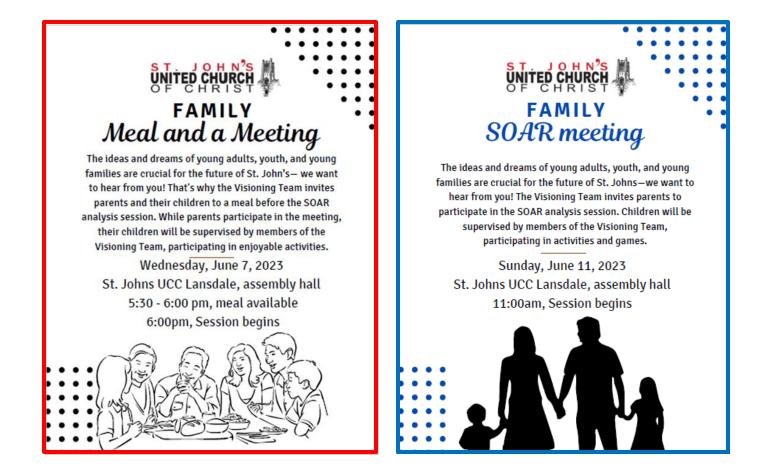
- Are there agencies, organizations, and/or people you'd like St. John's to connect with regarding mission?
- What community needs do you notice that need attention?
- If St. John's had one million dollars to impact a mission or need in the community, where would you want that one million to go?

#### Aspirations

- If St. John's was to become widely known for connecting with the community, what would you recommend as a first step in getting there?
- What would you tell other church members and friends if they asked you why it is essential to serve others beyond our own congregation?
- If there was a group anywhere you would be willing to join to help make the world a better place, what group would you join?

#### Results

- If you read an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about a mission initiative St. John's undertook, what would you hope it would say?
- What values would you list as a way to communicate St. John's commitment to outreach?
- In what ways would St. John's need to change if it were to become known as "the mission church" in the Lansdale community?





# Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: Minister of Music David Furniss invited any family not currently in a church choir to come in early on two Sundays in June to sing a simple anthem that Sunday.



**Twenty-five Years Ago:** The Women's Retreat was held at Jay Meier's cabin in a beautiful setting in the woods.

**Twenty Years Ago:** From the June 2003 *Enlightener*: The last communion before September will be a "very cool" Sunday with our quietly running air-conditioning. Take a ride in our new elevator and linger to see the newly landscaped courtyard.

**Fifteen Years Ago:** A Cajun/Creole dinner was offered after the 10:15 service to collect donations for the St. John's missionaries going to New Orleans in August.

**Ten Years Ago:** St. John's Artist Series 25th anniversary season was a celebration of the many partnerships that have made the concerts possible.

Five Years Ago: At a Sunday School social each class presented a play, a game, or singing.

**One Year Ago:** Amos the Church Mouse announced that he would be retiring along with our dear Rev. Sue but expressed the hope that another little critter might take his place. June book suggestions from the "Rev. Sue Favorites" Collection! We hope you will check out any of these special books. Look for the purple spine and sign out in the purple notebook. You'll see why Rev. Sue liked them!

<u>Old Turtle</u> by Douglas Wood

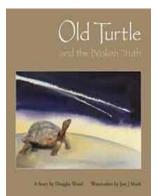


*Old Turtle* is a special blending of text and illustration. Told as a fable, the message of Old Turtle begins with simple words under beautiful, yet small, paintings. Slowly the words increase with the size of the illustrations,

until both fill the pages with stunning, uplifting words and color. Although it speaks of God, *Old Turtle* has a message that is acceptable to all spiritual persons, regardless of faith. It will give a child a sense of love and comfort.

# Old Turtle and the Broken Truth

by Douglas Wood A little girl who is upset by warfare and suffering seeks the wise counsel of Old Turtle. He tells her there are many truths to be found in the world and



within ourselves. The Old Turtle also reveals the second half of the broken truth—one that hopefully will inspire all readers, young and old, to open their hearts, minds, and souls to those on a different path than their own. Icontinued on next page1

# The Dawdlewalk by Tobi Tobias



Both mother and youngster discover there is so much to see on the way to school that dawdling is inevitable. Parents and grandparents will be reminded of the slower pace of children, and the beauty of their observations while we "scurry about."

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# WHAT'S UP IN COUNCIL?



#### Financial Report, Matt Carson

Total income of \$43,333.72 fell short of total operating expenses of \$50,047.11. Tithes and offerings for the month were \$28,675.46, below the 6-year average of \$36,045.92.

Annually our income is below expenses, a trend that is expected to continue through the summer months and into the fall. St. John's Finance Committee will revisit our budget midyear in June to course correct if necessary.

Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) for April were \$2,516.00, far short of our monthly goal of \$4,022.66.

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

#### [continued at right]

#### Staff Reports:

#### Ministerial Staff (team start report by Rev. Dale Davis, Rev. Addie Stong)

- Addie attended the Annual Clergy convocation in Lancaster for CE credits.
- Andrew highlighted a concert to be held at St. John's on Sunday, May 21, at 4 PM by the Valley Choral Society. It is not an Artist Series, but an outside organization that wishes to use the sanctuary. It is hoped more of this type of concert can be held at St. John's.
- Dale attended the Association Meeting on Andrew Root's book *Churches and the Crisis of Decline*. Dale will present, along with the Conference Minister, a workshop.

# Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

- Children's choir will continue to meet through June 11, when family choir will sing in worship.
- Children's choir will welcome William, Gregory, and Freia Salmon.

#### Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

- Baskets for the raffle are due Sunday, May 21.
- Church office will be closed Monday, May 29.
- Lansdale Montessori School will hold its graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 8, followed by a reception in Assembly Hall.

#### **Board Reports:**

#### Deacons:

- Church picnic is June 25 at Plains Mennonite Church. Signups will be available in the next few weeks. Additional help will be requested based on signups.
- Peter Conver has accepted a position as a Deacon. One more Deacon is needed. [continued on next page]

Educators:

- Sunday School was held May 7 with eight children in attendance. Next Sunday School will be June 4.
- Garden of Health will be the focus in Vacation Bible School.

#### Elders:

- Support for Addie's sabbatical was discussed.
- A signup book will be used to record to whom the Flower Ministry arrangements were delivered.
- Lansdale Day is June 3. Volunteers are needed to help with baskets.

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Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	
4/2	25	194	219	
4/9	200 (7	181	381	
	AM)			
4/16	23	105	128	
4/23	26	136	162	
4/30	28	123	151	
Average per week 208				

#### Trustees:

- <u>Emergency Activation System</u>. Three new activators will be installed: one in the lectern, one in Lisa's office, and a third to be determined. Montessori School has an emergency button. Bob Bertolette will be in contact with hospitality teams regarding this system.
- It is anticipated the total cost of the airconditioning hatch in the balcony ceiling will not exceed \$12,000. Discussion was held about funds from the rummage and soup sales to be used for this project rather than using Capital Projects funds. Barb Fretz will be contacted. If funds are not available, money for the project will come from Capital Funds.

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<u>NOTE</u>: Subsequent to this meeting Barb Fretz was reached and was pleased to allocate funds from the rummage and soup sales.

#### New Business:

Personnel Committee nominees Sandy Brown and Mark Hogan were approved by Council as new Personnel Committee members.

#### St. John's external

#### communications/website/social media opportunities

Additional support for John Hendricks was discussed. A Communications Team will help John Hendricks with planning and coordination of events.

#### Old Business:

#### <u>Visioning Team Update, Mark Bruen</u> The church profile is planned for September/October timeframe. A preliminary update will be given at the congregational meeting on June 25, to be held after the 9:30 AM worship service in the assembly hall before the church picnic.

Please stop by the Fireside Room to view the Raffle Baskets and purchase your tickets. The baskets will be on display Sundays from May 28 through June 25 and Lansdale Day on June 3. Tickets will be available for purchase at the church picnic on June 25 before the drawing that day. Winners may pick up their basket at St. John's. All proceeds will benefit the exterior renovation project. If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at 215-896.9381.

#### <u>Allocation/Approval/Utilization of Funds</u> Matt Carson is creating a layman's document

to explain funds distribution and guidance.

[continued on next page]

St. John's Council would like to thank Barb Fretz and all those who were instrumental in raising funds through the church rummage sale and soup/cookie sale. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in funding the much-needed Trustees project of an access hatch for entry into the tower area above the balcony. This space houses the air-conditioning unit, and this access allows for maintenance of this equipment. Because of this funding the project can go forward without unnecessary delay, assuring that future summer services will take place in the comfort of an airconditioned sanctuary.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for June, July, and August 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!

June 4 In memory of The Rev. Herman and Mrs. Ella Ahrens from Lorene Ahrens June 11

In memory of Polly Hartzell's June 11th birthday from her daughter, Dee Reedman, and family

In memory of Sara Line's birthday from her sister, Jeane, and Bob Fritz

[continued at right]

#### June 18 FATHER'S DAY

In memory of Warren Koenig from wife, Judy In memory of Robert D. Schultz from his daughter, Merle Anne Morcom, and Walter Hawkins

In loving memory of Anthony Faga and Theodore J. Ryan, our devoted dads, from their first-borns, Andy and Amy Ryan Faga In memory of David Evans from Jeane Fritz and family

In memory of William C. Fritz from Robert, Connie, Judy, and family

In memory of Charlotte Yocum's June 22nd birthday from her family

In memory of Robert M. Jenkinson's June 24th birthday from his daughter, Joan Haag Beiter

In honor of their June 24th wedding anniversary and in memory of their granddaughter, Caitlyn Jade Liebel, by Grace and Gerald Linderman Jr.

#### June 25

In memory of Thomas Timko's June 28th birthday from his wife, Vada, and family, Tobi and Tim

In memory of Eric Kirk from his mother, Barbara Kirk

#### July 2

In memory of Fred Brunner's July 7th birthday from his wife, Thelma

#### July 9

In memory of Nancy and Bob Schultz, Harry, Juliet, and Minnie Schultz from Merle Anne Morcom and Walter Hawkins

#### July 16

In memory of Roy Ekberg's July 19th birthday from his daughter, Sandy, and Scott Brown July 23

In memory of Nancy Kirk's July 29th birthday from her daughter, Barbara Kirk

[continued on next page]

July 30

In memory of her mother Emma K. Jenkinson's July 31st birthday and C. Webster's Haag's August 1st birthday from Joan Haag Beiter

In memory of Richard (Pete) Mininger's July 31st birthday from his wife, Shirley, son Douglas, and daughters Dawn and Connie In memory of Warren Badger's August 6th birthday from his daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

August 6

Remembering Rev. Sue on the 1st anniversary of her passing on August 4, with love from the Bertolette family

#### August 13

In memory of Rev. Sue on what would be her 68th birthday on August 13th from her loving family

#### August 20

In memory of Ethel I. Pool's August 22nd birthday from her family

In memory of Herb and Kay Crouthamel's August 22nd wedding anniversary from their daughter, Debbie Krail, and family In memory of Edward Clayton and Margaretta Pole from their family



#### Please Join Us!

The Church Picnic will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday, the congregational meeting. Feel free а side dish and/or to bring share. will desserts to We be having BBQ pulled pork and а vegetarian option.

# The Christmas Tea Returns

After a threeyear hiatus, St. John's Christmas Tea will return in



2023. This wonderful holiday event will happen on Saturday, December 2. The large silver urns that are used for the tea are no longer in the kitchen pantry and we have been unable to locate them. If anyone knows where these urns are, please contact Lisa in the church office or Tea Team coordinator Janet Morton at mortfam116@gmail.com Mark your calendars and watch for more information about the tea in future Heralds and *Enlighteners*.

Janet Morton: 215.317.0276



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#### Articles Due for September Issue Deadline: August 13

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 267.866.5326.

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Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rosa Giletti; Mary Lou Schultz; Edward Gary, friend of Ion Sands; and Vern Moyer, brother-in-law of Carol Hammel, who passed away recently



Reminder: Starting May 28 through September 3, there will be one worship service on Sunday mornings at <u>9:30am</u>.

Summary of Last Month And	Арг	Jan-Apr
YTD Income And Expense	2023	2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	28,675.46	138,102.41
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	1,317.00
Flowers	540.00	1,650.00
Rental Income	3.150.00	12,600.00
Use of Building Income	150.00	2,100.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	106.00	1,578.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	15.43	63.33
Total Income	32,636.89	157,411.69
Gross Income	32,636.89	157,411.69
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	38,008.49	142,214.84
Elders Expenses	119.77	765.97
Deacons Expenses	539.90	2,480.65
Educators Expenses	216.64	549.04
Trustees/Building Expenses	262.14	8,588.65
Building Operation Expenses	5,549.13	23,737.92
Operating Expenses	5,251.04	26,926.79
Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	493.54
Total Expense	50,047.11	205,757.40
Net Ordinary Income	-17,410.22	-48,345.71
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-6,713.39	37,648.88
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	1,751.00	13,407.00
Benevolence Offerings	3,201.00	22,611.59
Special Accounts	3,221.68	15,812.57
Total Other Income	8,173.68	51,831.16
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	1,667.96	19.473.06
Benevolence Disbursements	6,356.00	29,537.09
Special-Fund Expenditures	18,962.00	90,445.36
Total Other Expense	26,985.96	139,455.51
Net Other Income	-18,812.28	-87,624.35
Net Income	-36,222.50	-135,970.06
Net Income Plus Transfers	-25,525.67	-125,273.23

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 9:30 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, in the hospital, who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to need not be members of St. John's. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room: plastic vases, St. John's address directory, and cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them into the <u>plastic floral containers</u> located on the shelf in the flower room. <u>Return the green liners back into the brass</u> <u>vases, they belong to the florist.</u> Please include a card for each bouquet. Also, write in the signup book who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday. 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.

June 4	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
June 11	Grace & Gerry Linderman
June 18	Shelly Longcoy
June 25	Judy & Alan Johnston

July 2	Gayle & Bob George
July 9	Ruth Kinsey
July 16	
July 23	Lillian & Dan Panachyda
July 30	Mary Billy

August 6	Cindy Reese
August 13	Lisa Thim
August 20	Barb & Don Fretz
August 27	Susan & John Hendricks

# FROM THE CREATION STEWARDS



GARDEN OF HEALTH [continued on next page]

Lisa

We had a nice crew of volunteers at our first opportunity to work with the Garden of Health.

The Garden of Health is an all-volunteer 8acre organic farm across from the Hatfield Meat Packing Plant in Hatfield. All food grown on the farm is donated to area food banks to help reduce food insecurity. We helped mound the planting beds, planted a lot of spring vegetables and watered them in. It was a lot of fun!

St. John's is hoping, as part of our outreach effort, to become involved in the success of the Garden of Health. Initially, we are planning to volunteer a few days each month as follows:

June 14: 9 AM-Noon. All are welcome. June 21: 6 PM -8 PM—Family/VBS event July 9: Noon-3 PM—Family/VBS event July 12: 9-Noon. All welcome July 27: 6 PM-8 PM—Family/VBS event August 16: 9 AM -Noon. All welcome The help required depends on the season from planting, weeding, or harvesting to delivering the food to area food banks. For more information or to volunteer, contact Don Atkiss at datkiss@comcast.net or 215.872.7487 or fill out the signup sheets at church.

#### LANSDALE GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 10, St. John's gardens will again be part of the Lansdale Garden Tour. This is a self-guided walking tour of some spectacular gardens in downtown Lansdale: well worth it!

#### It's rhubarb season! Several people enjoyed this cake after church on April 23: here's the easy recipe. Enjoy!

Rhubarb Almond Cake This almond-rhubarb coffee cake is sweet and moist with a yummy crumb topping.

## Cake Batter:

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ cups packed brown sugar
- <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- 1½ cups rhubarb, chopped
- ½ cup sliced almonds
  Streusel Topping:
- ⅓ cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- ¼ cup sliced almonds

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease TWO 9-inch round pans. Make the batter: Combine flour, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl. Beat brown sugar, oil, egg, and vanilla in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Gradually mix in dry ingredients alternating with milk until well combined. Stir in rhubarb and almonds until incorporated. Pour into the prepared pans.

Make the topping: Mix melted butter and sugar together in a small bowl with a fork, then stir in almonds. Sprinkle over batter. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 30 to 35 minutes.





# Growing in Faith ~ VBS 2023

Last summer, we reimagined VBS to stand for Volunteer. Believe. Serve. ~ an intergenerational opportunity to put our faith into action! This year, we are excited to partner with Garden of Health Inc. to continue our mission to serve and feed our neighbors!

> Once again, we will offer 3 opportunities throughout the summer to be volunteer gardeners at Garden of Health! VBS is for **ALL ages**, but children and their families are especially welcome for a time of learning, gardening, and growing our faith!

# **Opportunities to get your hands dirty:**

Wednesday evening June 21, 6-8pm

Sunday afternoon July 9, 12-2pm

Thursday evening July 27, 6-8pm

\*Meet at the garden-500 Fairgrounds Road, Hatfield, PA 19440





#### JOIN US FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON

#### 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!

#### **FOLLOW US ONLINE**

Website: *www.stjohnsartistseries.org* Facebook: *www.facebook.com/stjohnsartistseries* Don't miss a moment of the St. John's Artist Series!