

The Fullness of Time

Enlightener

September 2023 Vol. XLIII. No. 07

By the time you read this, I will already be on my sabbatical journey, which began on August 14th. From where I am sitting now, however, it is the Tuesday before I depart and I suppose I will go ahead and confess...I peeked behind the cover of one of the books on my "DO NOT read until sabbatical" pile. I picked up the book in question at Clergy Convocation this past spring and, though I do not consider myself a voracious reader by any means, I have been looking forward to diving into it, partially out of anticipation for my months away and partially because I know it holds great wisdom for which I hunger.

The book is entitled *Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest: From Sabbath to Sabbatical and Back Again* by Ruth Haley Barton. At the very center of her book, as an interlude of sorts, she included a poem that spoke deeply to me as I prepare to intentionally and prayerfully step away from my daily pastoral responsibilities and step into a time of rest, renewal, and discernment. The author writes,

"There have to be times in your life when you move slow, times when you walk rather than run, settling into each step . . . There have to be times when you stop and gaze admiringly at loved ones, marveling that they have been given to you for this life . . . times when hugs linger and kisses are real, when food and drink are savored with gratitude and humility rather than gulped down on your way to something else. There have to be times when you read for the sheer pleasure of it, marveling at the beauty of words and the endless creativity in putting them together . . . times when you settle into the comforts of home and become human once again. There have to be times when you light a candle and find the tender place inside you that loves or sorrows or sings and you pray from that place, times when you let yourself feel, when you allow the tears to come rather than blinking them back because you don't have time to cry. There have to be times to sink into the soft body of yourself and love what you love simply because love itself is a grace . . . times when you sit with gratitude for the good gifts of your life that get lost and forgotten in the rush of things . . . times to celebrate and play to roll down hills to splash in water or make leaf piles to spread paint on paper or walls or each other. There have to be times to sit and wait for the fullness of God that replenishes body, mind, and soul— if you can even stand to be so full. There has to be time for the fullness of time or time is meaningless."

This poem is, essentially, a perfectly expressed list of goals for my sabbatical. I am so very grateful for this time to savor the fullness of time ~ to move slower in body, mind and spirit, to allow space for the healing that I have set aside in my busyness, to savor uninterrupted time with my family, and to get back in touch with my call and purpose as a child of God and a minister of word and sacrament. Though I am aware that not everyone is able to step aside in whatever position you fill for an extended period of time, I want to encourage you to take time at some point soon, even just for a few hours, to pause, to wait, to listen, to allow God to fill and replenish your soul. Sabbath is a gift and a call for ALL of God's people and one that is becoming increasingly more difficult to honor. As I honor my gift and call of sabbatical this fall, I pray that you, too, will honor your gift and call of Sabbath whenever you can and do it with great intention, even when the world wants to keep you busy.

I cannot sign off without expressing my deep gratitude to you, the congregation, our church leadership, and most especially Rev. Dale Davis and Andrew Paulson, both of whom have shown unwavering encouragement, even as they have and will continue to take on more responsibility in my absence. My ability to savor the fullness of time for these three months is only possible because they have graciously given up their time to support me. Their collegiality is unmatched and is a gift for which I give deep, deep thanks. I know that their efforts will be supported and met with heaps of grace and appreciation from all of you, which also gives me cause for thanksgiving.

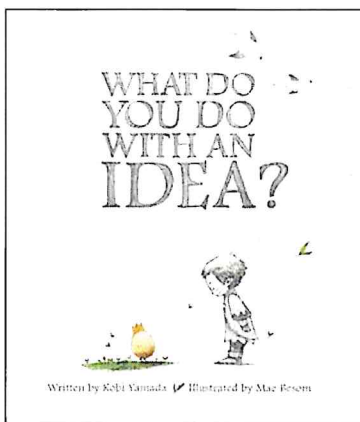
Lastly, notice that the subtitle to Ruth Haley Barton's book is "From Sabbath to Sabbatical and Back Again." Yes, not to worry, I will be back again. I am looking forward to worshipping with all of you on November 19th and beginning the Advent season together. Most importantly, I want you to know that I will be holding you in prayer during my time away. In the nine+ years I have served at St. John's, you have never been far from my mind or my heart, and no distance or time between us will change that.

With love and prayers for the fullness of time ~ yours and mine, *Rev. Anne*

**September
2023**



September suggested reading for everyone—
young, medium, and not so! Enjoy! See you in
October with more “Rev. Sue’s Favorite Books”
reviews.

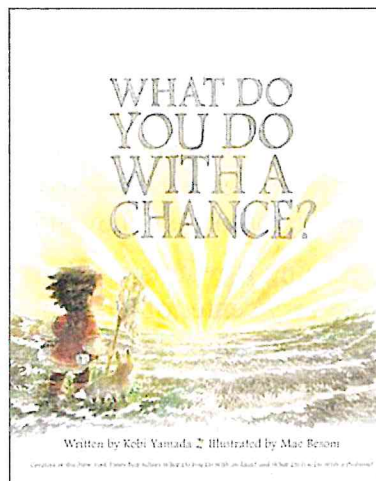
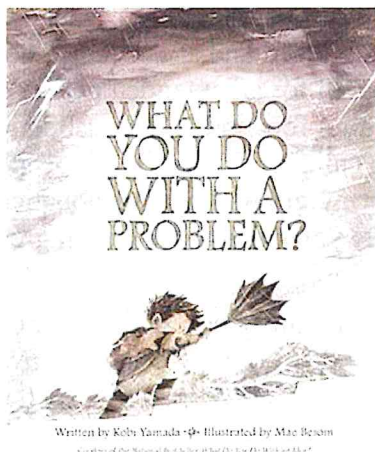


The message in
WHAT DO YOU
DO WITH AN
IDEA? is clear—
welcome and
nurture ideas with
patience and
persistence, no
matter how big or
small, no matter
how unique or
popular, and they
may grow to

change the world. It's a message that's been shared
before by teachers, business leaders, parents, and
mentors.

The book tells
the story of a
young boy who
has a problem
that just won't
go away—not
through
wishing, not
through
ignoring it,
and not
through
avoiding it.

In fact, not only would the problem not go away,
but the boy finds that the more he worries about
it, the bigger the problem becomes.



The award-
winning creators
of New York Times
bestsellers WHAT
DO YOU DO
WITH AN IDEA?
and What Do You
Do With a
Problem? return
with a story of a
child who isn't
sure what to make
of a chance
encounter, then

discovers that when you get brave, take chances,
and say yes to new experiences, amazing things
can happen.

St. John's 2024 Calendar



Would you like to sponsor a
month in St. John's 2024

calendar in honor or in memory of a loved one,
to promote your business or group, or celebrate
a milestone? If so, please call the Church Office
by **November 1** to select a month. However, if
you would like to request custom photos, the
deadline is September 10, since it does take
time to search through St. John's archives. Note,
March and December photos cannot be
customized due to Easter and Christmas
themes. The donation is \$100.

Articles Due for October Issue

Deadline: September 10

Leaders: Please provide articles for coming
events for the next *Enlightener* issue. 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
267.886.5326. The *Enlightener* is published
monthly except for July and August by St.
John's United Church of Christ, 500 West
Main Street, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446.
Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for September 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 listing is \$35.

September 3

In honor of the Rev. Frank and Beatrice Pehrson's September 5th wedding anniversary from their daughter, Karen, and Mark Methlie

In memory of Donald Gibson Sr's September 6th birthday from Donna Wardle and family

September 10

In honor of Sandy and Bob Taylor's September 11th wedding anniversary Remembering with love, Bill Rogers, Paul Hagerty IV, and other family loved ones from the MacKinstry/Rogers family In memory of Ruth Ekberg from her daughter, Sandy, and Scott Brown

In loving memory of Charles "Uncle Jim Jim" Snyder for his 30th birthday on September 8. Love Mom, Dad, Jackie, James, and the Boys

September 17

In memory of Bob Kinsey's September 22nd birthday from his wife, Ruth

September 24

In honor of Gold Star Mother's Day from Jean Roshong

Summary Of May And YTD Income And Expense	May 2023	Jan-May 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	32,819.44	170,921.85
Event Income/Fundraisers	135.00	1,452.00
Flowers	445.00	2,095.00
Investment Income	800.00	800.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	15,750.00
Use of Building Income	850.00	2,950.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	7.00	1,585.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	16.74	80.07
Total Income	38,223.18	195,634.87
Gross Income	38,223.18	195,634.87
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,666.84	177,881.68
Elders Expenses	116.58	882.55
Deacons Expenses	1,205.00	3,685.65
Educators Expenses	31.96	581.00
Trustees/Building Expenses	285.34	8,873.99
Building Operation Expenses	2,920.46	26,658.38
Operating Expenses	5,563.17	32,489.96
Miscellaneous Expenses	54.60	548.14
Total Expense	45,843.95	251,601.35
Net Ordinary Income	-7,620.77	-55,966.48
Budgeted Trnsfrs From Investments	9,896.83	9,896.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	2,276.06	-46,069.65
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	216.00	13,623.00
Benevolence Offerings	4,068.00	26,679.59
Special Accounts	22,111.09	37,923.66
Total Other Income	26,395.09	78,226.25
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	131.35	19,604.41
Benevolence Disbursements	2,653.00	32,190.09
Special Fund Expenditures	11,096.30	101,541.66
Soup Sale Expenditures	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rummage Sale Expenditures	4,995.93	4,995.93
Total Other Expense	23,876.58	163,332.09
Net Other Income	2,518.51	-85,105.84
Net Income	-5,102.26	-141,072.32
Net Income Plus Transfers	4,794.57	-131,175.49

**Council Minutes
from Monday,
June 12, 2023**



Financial Report, Matt Carson

St. John's income exceeded expenses for the month of May. We received \$48,920.01 against expenses of \$45,843.95. Of income received, \$32,819.44 was from tithes and offerings. Current income was supported by several undesigned benefvolences of \$7,000.00.

In May St. John's received \$3,024.00 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), meaning we fell short of our monthly goal of \$4,022.66 and continue to fall short of our annual goal for OCWM. Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with Matt Carson, Treasurer. No additional funds were authorized.

St. John's May 2023 Finance Report, Grace Bruen, Finance Committee Chair

This year we are shifting the budget to be more in line with how our income and expenses appear each month, rather than dividing the annual amount by 12. We know that typically giving to St. John's is not linear—it tends to be high for the first and last few months of the year and dip in the middle month, especially in the summer. It is expected that we will be operating "in the red" over the summer and into the fall, and end the year at 0, where total income equals total expenses. Last month, we were behind our projection, and were predicting we would be behind by \$11,000 by the end of the year. Adding in the results of May, our income exceeded our projection, and our expenses were lower than expected, allowing us to get back on track.

[continued at right]

We are now projecting to be \$408 in the red, a considerable improvement.

Board Reports:

Elders:

Anyone interested in joining the Visitation and Care Team, please see Chriss Bodde.

May 2023 Attendance			
Date	8:00	10:15	Total
5/7	33	110	143
5/14	31	120	151
5/21	18	110	128
5/28 (9:30)	120		120
			542
Average/Week = 136			

Educators:

- Fall Sunday School will be held weekly with a tentative start date of September 17.

New Business:

Wednesday Night Live (Ministerial Staff)

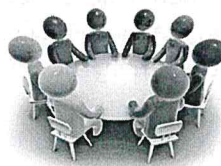
Staff introduced the new concept of a Wednesday night service opportunity. Changes made would be shifting the 8 AM Sunday morning service to Wednesday evenings and moving United Ringers and Chancel Choir rehearsals to Wednesday evenings.

This would be a one-year proposal including 9 AM Sunday School for children and an adult option during the same time.

Executive Leadership Proposal (Liz Rivett)

Executive Committee is small. It was felt a more beneficial Council meeting could be held by expanding central church leadership to include Andrew Paulson and Board Chairs as An Executive Governance Committee. This would allow better collaboration of ideas and communication between all boards for a more productive and engaging Council meeting.

Summary Of June And YTD Income And Expense	June 2023	January-June 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	8,180.28	199,102.13
Event Income/Fundraisers	1,796.00	3,248.00
Flowers	175.00	2,270.00
Investment Income	0.00	800.00
Rental Income	3,150.00	18,900.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	2,950.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	30.00	1,615.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	15.65	95.72
Total Income	33,346.93	228,981.80
Gross Income	33,346.93	228,981.80
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	36,084.24	213,965.92
Elders Expenses	89.53	972.08
Deacons Expenses	779.16	4,464.81
Educators Expenses	139.54	720.54
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,767.52	0,641.51
Building Operation Expenses	4,405.67	31,064.05
Operating Expenses	6,689.93	39,179.89
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	548.14
Total Expense	49,955.59	301,556.94
Net Ordinary Income	-16,608.66	-72,575.14
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-5,911.83	-61,878.31
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	300.00	13,923.00
Benevolence Offerings	3,956.50	30,636.09
Special Accounts	2,472.00	40,382.50
Total Other Income	6,728.50	84,941.59
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	9.13	19,613.54
Benevolence Disbursements	3,759.00	35,940.09
Special Fund Expenditures	569.00	102,110.66
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	5,000.00
Rummage Sale Expenditures	0.00	4,995.93
Total Other Expense	4,328.13	167,660.22
Net Other Income	2,400.37	-82,718.63
Net Income	-14,208.29	-155,293.77
Net Income Plus Transfers	-3,511.46	-144,596.94



Council Minutes from Monday, July 10, 2023

Financial Report, Grace Bruen, Finance Committee Chair

St John's income in June fell short of our expected income. We received \$44,028.11, \$6,528 short of our projected income. While our congregational giving was on track, we did not receive trust fund income that we normally expect this month. We are slightly behind in our annual budget, which should be back on track when our expected trust income arrives. In June St. John's received \$3,645.50 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The annual amount received as of June is \$20,736.75, our budget goal as of June is \$25,623.00, meaning we continue to be short of reaching our annual target (19%), but that gap is closing.

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

Staff Reports: Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dale Davis, Rev. Addie Stong

- Staff met with Abbie Lampe for her input on Wednesday Night Live planning with children.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

- Sunday morning children's time is in planning stages for the fall. Once in place, she will give to Educators for assistance.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

- St. John's received a thank-you letter from St. Vincent de Paul for the 3rd quarter 2023 contribution of \$2,500. They feel blessed to have this partnership with St. John's.

[continued on next page]

In September an announcement will be made to remind the congregation that, in lieu of gift cards, they can donate to the Emergency Fund in order to replenish it.

Board Reports:

Elders:

- Attendance average for June was 109/Sunday.

Deacons:

- Rickie Sands has joined Deacons.
- A kitchen cleanup/reorganizing date will be scheduled.
- A fall dinner date will be scheduled.

Educators:

- Mary Billy will take over as chair of Educators.

New Business:

Founder's Day August 26 proposal: Stained Glass Window tours

Executive Governance Committee discussed opening up St. John's sanctuary on Founder's Day. It was felt this could be a good way to open the doors to the community so they could learn more about St. John's. Council feedback was positive. Stained glass brochures are still available. A watercolor book of the windows is located in the narthex in a glass case.



I would like to thank the members and friends of St. John's for all the cards and prayers sent my way as I recovered from my surgery. The altar flowers given my way not only brightened my days but those in Laurel house where I was staying. I put them in the dining room.

Thank you,
Ginny Wilkinson

Summary Of July And YTD Income And Expense	July 2023	January-July 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	23,996.86	223,098.99
Event Income/Fundraisers	335.00	3,583.00
Flowers	195.00	2,465.00
Investment Income	0.00	800.00
Rental Income	0.00	18,900.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	2,950.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	0.00	1,615.95
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	15.97	111.69
Total Income	24,542.83	253,524.63
Gross Income	24,542.83	253,524.63
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	36,084.25	250,050.17
Elders Expenses	0.00	972.08
Deacons Expenses	300.00	4,764.81
Educators Expenses	0.00	720.54
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,013.36	11,654.87
Building Operation Expenses	3,823.89	34,887.94
Operating Expenses	5,533.30	44,713.19
Miscellaneous Expenses	71.76	619.90
Total Expense	46,826.56	348,383.50
Net Ordinary Income	-22,283.73	-94,858.87
Budgeted Trnsfrs From Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-11,586.90	-84,162.04
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	100.00	14,023.00
Benevolence Offerings	3,562.50	34,198.59
Special Accounts	4,805.95	45,188.45
Total Other Income	8,468.45	93,410.04
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	626.50	20,240.04
Benevolence Disbursements	4,096.50	40,036.59
Special Fund Expenditures	5,993.50	107,900.16
Soup Sale Expenditures	258.55	5,258.55
Rummage Sale Expenditures	0.00	4,995.93
Total Other Expense	10,975.05	178,431.27
Net Other Income	-2,506.60	-85,021.23
Net Income	-24,790.33	-179,880.10
Net Income Plus Transfers	-14,093.50	-169,183.27



St. John's has had 4 volunteer opportunities at the new Garden of Health organic garden in Flatfield. The garden grows gluten-free, organic produce, which they donate to area food banks. Our VBS program this year was dedicated to having our youth and parents volunteer at the garden. At the first event, we picked strawberries (at least the ones the kids didn't eat)! At the second event, we picked string beans and peppers. For the adult events, we helped plant the gardens in May, then picked string beans in June. It was a lot of fun, and a great opportunity for St. John's to help those less fortunate in our community.

We have two tentative dates for volunteers to help in the fall:

Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Wednesday, October 11, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

If you can volunteer, please email Don Atkiss at datkiss@comcast.net or just show up at the garden at 500 Fairgrounds Road, Flatfield, PA 19440.

Donations to the Garden of Health are also accepted by making a check out to St. John's with a note "Garden of Health" in the memo line. So far, we have donated over \$1,000 to the Garden of Health.



Welcome New Members!

Bill Cagney joined St. John's on July 30. He currently resides in North Wales. He was

born in The Bronx, New York, and raised in Pearl River, New York, as a Roman Catholic. While in high school he was involved in a variety of choral, band (trumpet), and orchestra groups.

He attended Cornell University, earning a degree in chemical engineering with a focus on biochemical engineering. He has worked in biotechnology and biopharmaceuticals for over 50 years. While at Cornell he sang with The Cornell University Glee Club and an a capella group called The Hangovers, who are still going strong in their 55th year.

His first job was with Eli Lilly in Lafayette, Indiana. While there he sang with The Lafayette Bach Chorale and at area churches. He married his wife, Evie, in 1973 and enjoyed 40+ years of marriage until her death in July 2022. They were married in an Episcopal church (Evie's home denomination). Soon after they were married he got a job with Genentech. They moved to California, where they had three sons (Michael, Nicholas, and Peter). He and Evie both sang in the choir at St. Clements Episcopal Church in Berkeley, and he sang with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

He was recruited away from Genentech to Biogen, in Massachusetts, where they became members of Pilgrim Church Sherborn, a UCC church. They both sang in the choir and became Deacons (similar to St. John's Elders). They moved to Pennsylvania in 2005 when Bill took a position with Janssen Pharmaceuticals (J&J). They were initially unsuccessful in finding a new church in Pennsylvania.

[continued on next page]

Pilgrim Church had a great, long-term pastor who was stepping down due to health issues and they were comparing pastors to him. Although they somehow missed checking out St. John's earlier, Bill was thrilled to find a new home church in St. John's and also to be able to join the choir. Please join us in welcoming Bill to the St. John's family.

Scott Cunningham and his wife, LaRae, originally from Roxborough, have lived in Lansdale for the past 30 years. They have two children, a daughter who lives in Harleysville and a son who currently lives in Manilla, Philippines. Scott has recently retired from PJM where he was an IT Professional. He enjoys a good book and a good movie, being with people, and volunteering. In his spare time he volunteers at North Wales Library and at Living Hope Farm. He looks forward to more time to travel and play golf. Please join us in welcoming Scott to the St. John's family.

**Save
the
Date!**



Our 19th Charitable Gift Market! Sunday, October 15, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM. NEW! Bring a friend and shop OUTSIDE on Richardson Avenue (weather permitting)! Twenty charities will be eager to tell you about their important work locally, nationally, or internationally. Please consider buying all-occasion gifts that make a difference. Visit st-johns-ucc.org for more details.



Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: Ventures for older adults provided fellowship and discussion on the theme "Walking in Their Moccasins" at Fernbrook Center. The topic explored ways to better understand present-day circumstances facing Native Americans.

Twenty-five Years Ago: In response to a survey conducted in the spring, a special service with more traditional aspects, a King James Sunday, was held September 20. Requests for specific hymns were honored. Women were invited to wear hats!

Twenty Years Ago: Children's Enrichment began on September 10. The gathering included singing, crafts, dinner, and fun.

Fifteen Years Ago: Kirsten Olson was welcomed as our new Minister of Music for children and Youth.

Ten Years Ago: On Sunday, September 15, the Diakonia Outreach Team sponsored a letter-writing event at St. John's for Bread for the World's Offering of Letters campaign.

Five Years Ago: The 11th annual Worm Project banquet was held on September 15 at Franconia Heritage Banquet and Conference center in Telford.

One Year Ago: Rev. Dale Davis was welcomed to serve as our interim pastor on September 15.



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.

Lisa

Please leave the plastic liners in the brass vases, they belong to the florist.

September 3	Karen & Mark Methlie
September 10	Jen & Matt Harp
September 17	Anne & Eric Kinsey
September 24	Ruth Kinsey



Wednesday Night Live

come together *worship • nourish • learn*

Wednesdays after Labor Day from 5-7pm
at St. John's United Church of Christ, 500 W Main St, Lansdale
Nourishment and connection for all ages!

You are invited to...

A Community Meal 5pm

Enjoy a delicious meal from a local restaurant, donations welcome but not expected

Family Worship 5:30pm

Join in worship with communion and have a mid-week spiritual connection

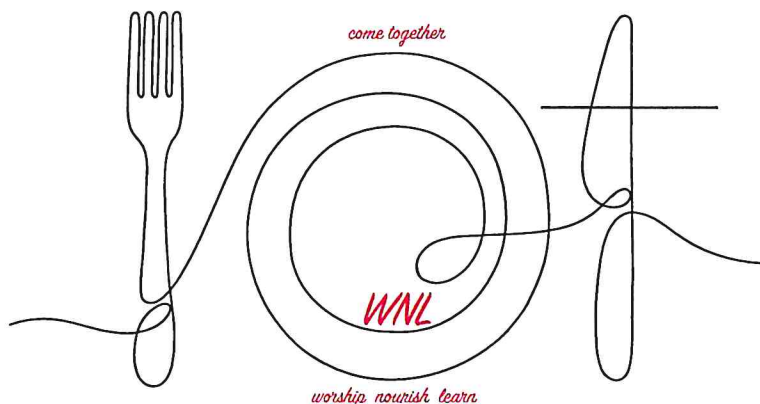
Education & Music 6pm

Engage in Children's Music (preschool through high school) and Adult Education

There's more! Stay for adult Handbell Choir rehearsal at 6:45pm

and adult Chancel Choir rehearsal at 7:30pm

Contact Minister of Music Andrew Paulson at andrew@st-johns-ucc.org for info



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Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 855-5489
office@st-johns-ucc.org
Facebook: @MyStJohnsUCC
YouTube: StJohnsUCCLansdalePA



Join us for the first concert of the 2023-2024 season!
SEIPP/SHEETS TRUMPET & ORGAN DUO



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

\$1000+

Bob Bertollette & Emilie Truscott • Dan & Lillian Panachyda

\$750-\$999

\$500-\$749

Marie Carota

\$250-\$499

Phil & Wendy Hunt

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Lorene Ahrens • Amy & Andy Faga • Cynthia Overwise • Marcia Stacy

Up to \$99

Thank you to our generous patrons in this category!

