

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

Enlightener

January 2024 Vol. XLIV, No. 01

January 2024

Greetings St. John's Members and Friends!

As we approach 2024, it is fitting to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new opportunities ahead.

Beginning in March 2023, St. John's Visioning Team engaged in dialogue with the congregation to gather input and opinions related to four focus areas/quadrants: Worship & Faith Formation, Music, Fellowship & Care, and Outreach. Visioning sessions were held over several months as the Team carefully and prayerfully shaped St. John's Vision for the future. In the fall the Profile Team worked on the Church Profile in preparation for the search for a settled pastor.

Weekly fellowship time on Sunday mornings resumed in 2023 after a long hiatus during Covid and the months that followed. As usual, Easter Sunrise Service at White's Road Park amphitheater was well attended by many members, friends and neighbors in the community. This service has been one of St. John's most significant outreach opportunities.

During the summer months, children and adults volunteered at Garden of Health locations. This VBS (Volunteer, Believe, Serve) mission provided a hands-on opportunity to serve and feed our neighbors. On June 3, St. John's again had a basket raffle during Lansdale Day; on June 10 we participated in the Lansdale Garden Tour; and June 25 we were able to gather at Plains Park for our annual Church Picnic! To close out the summer, on August 26 the sanctuary was open for tours of the stained-glass windows during Founder's Day.

Rev. Addie was able to take her overdue sabbatical from August 13 through November 13, providing her time to intentionally and prayerfully step away from her daily pastoral duties and step into a time of rest, renewal, and discernment. As planned, she returned to St. John's in time for the season of Advent and Christmas.

The exciting, new Wednesday Night Live program was started in September, providing a mid-week opportunity for fellowship, worship, adult education, a children's music program, and choir and handbell rehearsal time. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate, stop by sometime and experience all that is happening at St. John's on a Wednesday evening!

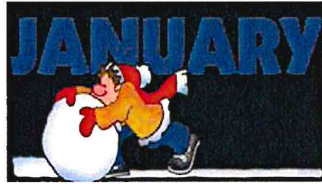
During 2023 our congregation celebrated three baptisms, four births and two weddings, confirmed four young people, and mourned 14 members and 17 friends.

The new year no doubt will be an exciting one as we begin our search for a settled pastor. Please continue to pray for St. John's pastoral staff, Church Council, and Search Committee as we embark on this new and hope-filled chapter in our history!

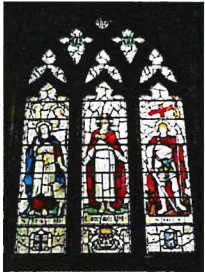
Peace,

Lisa Delp

**JANUARY
2024**



Were You There?



Thirty Years Ago: The United Adult class completed a course titled "These Are My Witnesses," dealing with the church at work all over the world.

Twenty-five Years Ago: St. John's Council investigated personal listening systems to allow those with hearing problems to participate

more fully during worship and programs.

Twenty Years Ago: Pastor Ryan Henderson's first youth group function was the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. volunteer weekend in Philadelphia.

Fifteen Years Ago: The Stewardship committee posted a bulletin board of photos of volunteers at St., John's.

Ten Years Ago: A group of volunteers, "Helping Hands," was formed consisting of cooks and drivers to assist people with short-term unexpected needs.

Five Years Ago: We received a quote from Clear Sound Ltd to replace failing components of our sound system and upgrade to state-of-the-art technology.

One Year Ago: We wished Chriss Bodde a happy retirement from her position as Financial Administrator.

Congratulations to Dani and Joe Barker on the birth of their daughter, Emily June, granddaughter of Teri and Frank Slover, great-granddaughter of Judy and Jim Lederach!

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for January 2024. 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!

January 7

In memory of Richard R. Schmidt's January 10th birthday from his cousins Bob and Jane Keim

In memory of Eileen Crockett Laird's January 13th birthday from her sister Pat, and Jonathan and Ken Rieker

January 14

In memory of her husband Bill's birthday from Nancy Roberts

In memory of Pat Salter's birthday on January 17th from her family

January 21

In memory of Michelle Leigh's January 23rd birthday from her Mum (Anne Haines)

In memory of Lorraine Badger's January 24th birthday from her daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

In memory of Ethel Shellenberger's January 25th birthday from Lorene Ahrens



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Wendy Hunt, and Margaret (Peggy) Kannenstine, sister of Abbie Lampe, who passed away recently.

End of Year 2023 in Church Council



Financial Report: Matt Carson, Treasurer

In November we had an income of \$43,414.66 against expenses of \$49,384.58, a difference of \$5,969.92. November expenses were high. Assuming December income meets our projection, we will end the year with a deficit of \$20,126, which would require the use of the Immediate Needs fund to make up the difference.

We are behind our projected donations for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) YTD by \$4,383.

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

Staff Reports: Ministerial Staff (Dale Davis, Addie Stong, Andrew Paulson):

- Andrew stated the Advent season is enriching, with Tuba Christmas and the Artist Series held in the sanctuary.
- Addie stated the visitation list checking on members is ongoing with the help of Chriss Bodde.
- Dale stated the visitation committee is going well and he is grateful for the help of Chriss and the Elders.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

- The children/family choir is going strong.
- Connect3 meets every Sunday. We are finalizing our mission project of a suitcase of books for the children in Malawi, and learning about Advent.

[continued on next page]

Summary of November and YTD Income and Expense	Nov 2023	Jan–Nov 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	26,988.85	333,345.54
Event Income/Fundraisers	1,147.00	6,975.00
Flowers	295.00	2,985.00
Investment Income	0.00	1,348.13
Rental Income	3,250.00	28,650.00
Use of Building Income	0.00	3,300.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	1,036.98	2,813.93
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	17.69	528.70
Total Income	32,735.52	379,946.30
Gross Income	32,735.52	379,946.30
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	35,708.50	393,437.78
Elders Expenses	227.36	1,244.38
Deacons Expenses	2,032.12	10,022.90
Educators Expenses	0.00	793.52
Trustees/Building Expenses	2,305.75	19,229.45
Building Operation Expenses	3,667.62	51,373.28
Operating Expenses	5,272.38	64,568.28
Miscellaneous Expenses	170.85	906.49
Interest Expense	0.00	173.25
Total Expense	49,384.58	541,749.33
Net Ordinary Income	-16,649.06	-161,803.03
Budgeted Trnsfrs from Investments	10,696.83	10,696.83
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-5,952.23	-151,107.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	153.99	25,000.95
Benevolence Offerings	4,276.00	49,708.09
Special Accounts	3,414.00	71,228.41
Charitable Gift Market	110.00	7,821.00
Total Other Income	7,950.00	156,154.50
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	153.99	25,000.95
Benevolence Disbursements	5,300.50	54,849.59
Special Fund Expenditures	681.23	125,849.82
Charitable Gift Market	7,489.44	7,489.44
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	5,798.91
Rummage Sale Expenditures	0.00	4,995.93
Total Other Expense	13,625.16	223,984.64
Net Other Income	-5,675.16	-67,830.14
Net Income	-22,324.22	-229,633.17
Net Income Plus Transfers	-11,627.39	-218,936.34

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

- Lisa sent the results of the OCWM commitment vote for 2024 to the UCC Conference.
- The current Herald will cover the rest of December 2023.

Board Reports:

Elders: (Debby Hendricks)

- Andrew and Rev. Dale reported that Love Gift Sunday was a huge success. It was a fun and joy-filled service.

November Attendance			
Sunday		WNL	
11/5	118	11/1	22
11/12	136	11/8	30
11/19	119	11/15	26
11/26	99	11/29	26
Total=472		Total=104	
Average=118		Average=26	

Deacons: (Scott Vanderburg)

- February 4 is the congregational dinner. Additional help will be needed.
- Social Hour 2024 plans are for Deacons to host every other Sunday, with other groups/families in alternating weeks.

Trustees: (Dan Panachyada)

- The roof repair has begun.
- The Fireside Room repairs on the floor near the fireplace will begin the week of December 17.
- The Soup Sale proceeds of \$750 went toward the Exterior Restoration Fund.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

- Many volunteers helped with Love Gift Sunday, which went well.
- The Advent Event and Social Hour on December 10 was successful.

New Business:

January Congregational Meeting and Dinner (Liz Rivett and Deacons)

The congregational meeting will be held before the dinner to vote on the new Board members.

[continued at right]

Q1 2024 St. Vincent de Paul Contribution (Liz Rivett)

The last quarterly giving of \$2,500 was in September. The arrangement has been working well with St. Vincent de Paul. A representative of the organization has been contacted to speak to the congregation. A small team will be needed to set guidelines and rules for management and distribution of benevolence funds.

Old Business:

New Council Members (Mark Bruen)

Mark thanked Council members for their time. Current needs are: one Deacon, one Educator, and two Trustees. Forward any names to Mark.

Visioning/Profile Team Update (Mark Bruen)

The Visioning team has completed their work. The top 10 findings were given to the Profile team.

Code of Conduct (Liz Rivett)

A draft document of guidelines for all to follow is in process. The document will need to be accepted by the congregation. It was felt having such a document in place for the settled minister sets standards for behavior.

Articles Due for February Issue Deadline: January 15

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

☆ Ash Wednesday

☆ Lent

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.

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500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446.
Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Ursinus College Music Department Spring 2024 Season

Sunday, January 28: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Heefner Memorial Organ Recital with Alan Morrison

Ursinus Music department opens the Spring 2024 season with a performance by our gifted College Organist, Alan Morrison. Join us for a delightful afternoon of sounds from the Heefner organ in Bomberger Auditorium.

Thursday, February 8: 7:30 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Daedalus Quartet

Rescheduled from a fall postponement, the Daedalus String Quartet brings their artistry of programming and performance to Ursinus College for the first time. The program will include original music by Ursinus College's own Assistant Professor of music, Dr. Andy Davis.

Saturday, February 10: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Faculty Recital

Voices of Ursinus Choral director Nicole Snodgrass and Pianist Greg DiBona join forces for a recital of vocal and solo piano repertoire. The two artists will collaborate on music by Gershwin, Handel, and Schubert, and the program will also include solo piano works by Debussy, Liszt, and a Jazz Fantasy on Mozart.

Sunday, February 18: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Heefner Memorial Organ Recital with Isza Wu and Sarah Palmer

For our final Heefner Memorial organ recital of the year, two Masters of Music students from the Curtis Institute will share the stage! Isza Wu and Sarah Palmer, both students of Alan Morrison, will perform masterworks by Max Reger and transcriptions for the organ.

Sunday, March 24: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Faculty Recital: Holly Hubbs, Saxophone, Andrea Van Acker, Saxophone, Kris Sanchack, Piano

William Heefner Chair of Music Dr. Holly Hubbs will be joined by Belgian Saxophonist Andrea Van Acker and Pianist Dr. Kristofer Sanchack for this afternoon of music for saxophones and piano by Belgian and American Women Composers.

Friday, April 19: 7:30 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Ursinus Wind Ensemble & Chamber Music

The Ursinus Wind Ensemble goes "Pop!" for this spring concert of showtunes, movie music, and other surprises under the baton of Harry Oehler. This concert will also feature student soloists, small chamber groups, and a jazz combo performance.

Saturday, April 20: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Voices of Ursinus

Under the direction of Nicole Snodgrass, the Voices of Ursinus will be performing a diverse variety of music, including pieces by acclaimed African American composer Marques Garrett and Australian American composer Melissa Dunphy. They will also be performing songs by Cyndi Lauper and the band Delta Rae.

Sunday, April 21: 4:00 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Ursinus Strings

Director Melinda Rice and the Ursinus String Ensemble explore the rigorous, robust, and highly satisfying string classic, Gustav Holst's Saint Paul's Suite, and pairs it with music that has been referenced in the films of Wes Anderson. Come and see if you can match the music you hear with the film in which it was featured.

Friday, April 26: 7:30 PM, Bomberger Auditorium

Ursinus Jazz Ensemble

Dive into an enchanting evening of jazz as the Ursinus College Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Brian Langdon, takes center stage for the final Music Department concert of the year! Join us in beautiful Bomberger Hall for a musical journey that promises to captivate your senses with soulful melodies and rhythmic brilliance. Featuring Big band classics as well as your favorite pop hits, this is going to be a night you will not forget.



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 remove the flowers from the brass vases and green liners and put them into the plastic floral containers located on the shelf in the flower room. Return the green liners to the brass vases, they belong to the florist. 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 not available on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else and let me know. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John's flower ministry.

~ Lisa

2024

Jan 7	Kelly Bresadola	Feb 4	Mary Billy	Mar 3	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
14	Toni & Steve Butz	11	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	10	Kelly Bresadola
21	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	18	Barb & Robin MacMullen	17	Gale Linderman
28	Sarah Baker & Bob Keim	25	Sarah Hogan	24	Pete Probst
				31	Sue & Mike Donahue

Apr 7	Melody Bergey	May 5	Judy & Bill Zoll	Jun 2	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
14	Sally & Steve Jarinko	12	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	9	Grace & Gerry Linderman
21	Karen & Mark Methlie	19		16	Shelly Longcoy
28	Bonnie & Ken Hales	26	Peter Conver	23	Judy Johnston
				30	

Jul 7	Gayle & Bob George	Aug 4	Cindy Reese	Sep 1	Jen & Matt Harp
14		11	Lisa Thim	8	Karen & Mark Methlie
21	Lillian & Dan Panachyda	18	Barb & Don Fretz	15	Eric & Anne Kinsey
28	Mary Billy	25	Susan & John Hendricks	22	Ruth Kinsey
				29	Marcia Stacy

Oct 6	Amy Faga	Nov 3	Sarah Hogan	Dec 1	Lisa Thim
13	Lisa Thim	10	Lisa Thim	8	Robin & Barbara MacMullen
20	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	17	Sue & Bill Morris	15	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
27	Mary Billy	24	Sarah Hogan	22	Mary Billy
				29	Bill & Sue Morris



Presents

THE MIDWINTER GALA

A CELEBRATION OF THE ST. JOHN'S ARTIST SERIES

6pm, Friday, February 9, 2024

Come and support the St. John's Artist Series with dinner, drinks, entertainment, and a silent auction. All proceeds from the Midwinter Gala support the St. John's Artist Series! Tickets are \$100 per person and include an open beer/wine/soda bar, a delicious buffet dinner with dessert and appetizers, a special program featuring the North Penn High School Navy Jazz Combo, and access to the silent auction. Mark your calendars and register today by visiting: www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala or by scanning the QR code below.



The final day to register is January 31!

SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION

Our silent auction promises to showcase one-of-a-kind items and experiences. While we won't share all of the items with you today, we are excited to tell you about the following:

Tickets, merchandise, and memorabilia from the Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Union, Philadelphia Flyers, Philadelphia 76ers and the Philadelphia Phillies, including an *autographed Dallas Goedert football* and an *autographed Travis Konecny jersey*!

Items and experiences from WIP-FM, Philadelphia Zoo, Ambler Theater, and other Philadelphia and North Penn Valley area businesses and individuals!

The St. John's Artist Series would like to thank all of our donors, businesses, Philadelphia sports teams, and their affiliates for their participation.

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

\$1000+

Bob Bertollette & Emilie Truscott • Grace & Mark Bruen
Suzanne & Don Franks • Bonnie & Ken Hales • Dan & Lillian Panachyda

\$500-\$749

Marie Carota • Anne & Eric Kinsey • Ruth Kinsey • Judy & Bill Leslie

\$250-\$499

A Friend • Susan Clemens • David Furniss • Phil & Wendy Hunt
Sally & Steve Jarinko • Mark & Karen Methlie • Liz Rivett • Scott & Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

Lorene Ahrens • Sally & Don Atkiss
Mary Billy (in memory of Linda Horst, Wendy Hunt, Edna McGinley, Jim Stevenson, & Jerry Umstead)
Amy & Andy Faga • Jennifer & Charles Favata • Nicole & Donald Groff • John & Susan Hendricks
Leroy Horst • Ron & Joyce Huisenga • Alan Kerbaugh • Judy Koenig • Carol Luehrs • Barbara MacMullen
Connie May • Rick & Wendy O'Connor • Cynthia Overwise • Susan Popjoy • Marcia Stacy

Up to \$99

Thank you to our generous patrons in this category!
All attempts are made to display an accurate patron list. Please notify us of any errors.

