



Enlightener

March 2024 Vol. XLIV, No. 03

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2024 AT ST. JOHN'S ~ "FOLLOW ME"

Lent is an invitation for us to reevaluate our lives and draw closer to God. As you can see by our Lenten schedule of events, there are plenty of ways to engage this sacred, holy time with us at St. John's. We hope you will feel welcome to join us on the journey in whatever ways bring meaning and mindfulness to this sacred season.

Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, February 28

*5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion*

6pm – Lenten Book Study: A Grace Disguised

Sunday, March 3: Third Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 6

*5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion*

6pm – Lenten Book Study: A Grace Disguised

Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 13

*5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion*

6pm – Lenten Book Study: A Grace Disguised

Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 20

*5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion*

6pm – Lenten Book Study: A Grace Disguised

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Join us for worship with a Palm Processional and Holy Communion to usher in Holy Week.

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday (cont.)

4:00pm – Illuminare: The Music of Elaine Hagenberg

Continue your Holy Week journey with the St. John's Artist Series Palm Sunday concert - a powerful afternoon with the St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends, pianist Vince Ryan, and full orchestra presenting music of this incredible living composer. A reception follows this inspirational afternoon.

Wednesday, March 27

No 5:30pm Wednesday Night Live Worship.

No 6pm Lenten Book Study

(Dinner will still be served from 5pm-6:45pm)

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday

7pm – Maundy Thursday Service

Join us for an intimate, interactive worship experience around tables in Assembly Hall with Holy Communion and Hand Washing.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday

7pm – Good Friday Service

Join us for a moving Tenebrae worship service that includes a dramatic reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of Mark.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

7am – Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship

Join us for outdoor sunrise worship with Holy Communion at the bandshell at White's Road Park. An Easter Egg Hunt for children follows the service.

10:15am – Easter Sunday Sanctuary Worship

Join us for worship at St. John's with Holy Communion. Festive brass accompanies this festive service that concludes with the famous Widor Toccata organ postlude.

Music Ensembles at Special Services

Ash Wednesday: Chancel Choir

Good Friday: Chancel Choir

Palm Sunday: Chancel Choir

Easter Sunrise: Children's Choir, United Ringers

Easter Sanctuary: Chancel Choir, United Ringers, Brass



A team of volunteers is needed to represent the welcoming atmosphere here at St. John's. We are looking for greeters for the Sunday morning service at 10:15.

We would like three members each Sunday to serve as greeters: two at the back of the Sanctuary and one at the back door at the ramp (formerly known as the Umbrella Ministry) to welcome attendees. You can be paired with someone as well.



Please consider this important ministry! There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby, or you can call the Church Office or speak to an Elder.

**Highlights from St. John's
Congregational Meeting,
Sunday, February 4, 2024**



Liz Rivett presented the proposed change to the church by-laws, which is to clarify the current practice of nominating Council members.

There were no questions on the proposed change. A motion was made and seconded to amend our constitution and by-laws as approved by Council on January 8, 2024.

Matt Carson presented attendance trends, giving shift of funds, trends of giving units, and investment balances. At the end of January 2024 St. John's was \$12,000 short. Expenses for 2024 will be reviewed and spending limited.

Jessica Carson presented the Visioning findings, timeline, and forecast for the settled pastor. The Profile Team is drafting the profile for the settled pastor. It is anticipated this will be posted by the end of February 2024. The Search and Call will be led by the Elders.

Pastor Dale will retire the end of May 2024. The hiring of a Bridge Pastor to support staff until a settled pastor has been selected is proposed.

Marge Jewell gave an update on the Communications Coordinator. Over 100 resumes have been received. Interviews of candidates is the next step.

Lisa Delp will retire on March 31, 2024. The Personnel Committee will meet with Lisa to advance the process of defining the office administrator role.

New Church Council members are:

President: Mark Bruen

Vice President: Deborah Dayton

New Board members are:

Elders: Emilie Truscott, Bill Cagney

Deacons: Sumiko Booraem, Judy Leslie, Judy Johnston

Educators: Kim Sands, Barb MacMullen

Trustees: Alan Malachowski, Steve Hendricks

Finance Committee:

Grace Bruen, Chair; Charles Sisian, Susan Hendricks, Liz Rivett, Rick Fanciulacci, Chriss Bodde, Marge Jewell, Bob Bertollette

Personnel Committee:

Marge Jewell, Chair; Sandy Brown, Mark Hogan, Rick O'Connor, Kelly Bresadola

Mark Bruen noted the highest-priority tasks for 2024 include:

Priority #1:

Hire a Settled Pastor, Church Administrator, Bridge Pastor, Communications Coordinator

Priority #2:

Improve communication both internal and external with congregation, council, staff

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Priority #3:
Local Outreach
Wednesday Night Live
Benevolence
Code of Conduct
Building Use



On behalf of the members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul/Saint Maria Goretti Conference, I am writing to wish you all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! We cannot thank you enough for the assistance you have provided to our neighbors throughout the year. Together, we have been able to help more of those in need throughout our community than we could individually. Thank you!

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another....”
Saint Vincent de Paul

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. Arlene Studer, Marjorie Masten, Grace Ehly, Trudy Yocum, Dottie Rittenhouse, Judy Reitz, and Beverly Jackson, sister of Scott Vanderburg, who passed away recently.



Notes from Church Council



Welcome to Committee Members

Members of the Finance Committee are Rick Fanciulacci (Deacons), Chriss Bodde (Elders), Margie Jewell (Educators), Bob Bertollette (Trustees), Charles Sisian (Member-at-large), Susan Hendricks (Member-at-large), Liz Rivett (Stewardship member).

Members of the Personnel Committee are Margie Jewell, Sandy Brown, Mark Hogan, Rick O'Connor, Kelly Bresadola.

Financial Report: Matt Carson, Treasurer

We are getting off to a slow start for the year. Tithes and offerings were \$40,221.53 against a projection of \$49,879.00, a shortfall of 9,657.47. It is important to understand that while we show a positive balance for January when including the budgeted investment transfer, we did not reach our goal for tithes and offerings. We count on robust offerings through the winter months to offset low offerings during the summer.

Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) were \$4,540.21. We were looking for \$5,613.18 for January to be on track for the year, meaning we are behind by \$1,072.97 as we start the year.

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

Staff Reports:

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

Dale thanked those attending WNL. There has been one new family attending consistently. A few visitors have been noticed on Sunday mornings. It is anticipated new members will be joining St. John's soon.

[continued on next page]

- Dale mentioned St. John's and Trinity Lutheran have had a relationship with combined choirs. Staff of St. John's and Trinity Lutheran have discussed other ways both churches could be involved with community events. St. John's staff met with the Elders and Executive Committee, gaining their approval for a shared hosting of the Easter Sunrise Service at White's Road Park with Trinity Lutheran.
- Pastor Addie stated the 5-week Lenten book study of *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss* by Jerry Sittser will focus on grief. The group will meet at 6 PM on Wednesdays during Lent (February 21–March 20).
- Andrew stated music for Easter is underway. The Artist Series gala was a success and he thanked everyone for their support.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:

- Connect3 is going strong. The children are collecting books and flashlights for the Malawi project and have invited the congregation to join.
- The Family Choir sang at WNL and on Sunday in February.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

- White's Road Park has been reserved for Easter sunrise service March 31.
- Plains Mennonite Church has been reserved for the church picnic on June 9.

Board Reports:

Trustees: (Bob Bertolette)

- The exterior restoration stonework was a success. There are no leaks in the Fireside Room wall. Tiles have been replaced and the fireplace cleaned.

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- Piping and other related equipment to reroute/redirect the pipes and nozzles in the kitchen was needed to meet present fire codes at a cost of \$2,305.

Deacons: (Scott Vanderburg)

- The menu for the church picnic has not yet been decided.
- Social hosts are still needed. Deacons are alternating weeks.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

- Easter Sunrise service Easter Egg hunt is being planned.
- March goodie boxes last day for donations is Sunday, March 3.
- Discussion started on VBS.

Elders: (Susan Fitzpatrick)

- A committee of Elders and 3 members-at-large is being formed for Search and Call.
- Bridge Pastor was discussed.

January Attendance

Sunday		WNL		Total/Week
1/7	87	1/3	11	98
1/14	92	1/10	22	114
1/21	117	1/17	22	139
1/28	127	1/24	31	158
		1/31	31	31
Average/Week=106		Average/Week=23		
Total/Month=540				

New Business:

Priority #1:

Search and Call Process (Mark Bruen)

Elders will post the Church Profile and receive resumes. It is unknown how long it might take to hire a settled pastor. Elders will recommend a candidate to Council. The decision will need a congregational vote.

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Bridge Pastor (Bill Leslie)

Bill Leslie met with Rev. Addie. Bill and Mark Bruen will meet with Kevin McLemore for background on the Conference perspective. A small committee will be formed to review candidates recommended by the Conference.

Priority #2:

Communications—Internal and External (Deb Dayton)

Deb stated a goal is to improve communication between staff, council, and the congregation. There will be a listening/discussion table at Social Hour for the congregation to ask questions or express comments. Outreach opportunities with the community are being explored.

Old Business:

Profile Team Update (Mark Bruen)

The draft has been completed and reviewed by the Elders and the Conference. Staff received the draft for their comments. The goal is to have the final draft ready by end of February for posting by the Conference.

Hospitality Team meeting (Bill Leslie)

A meeting was held to discuss procedures, alarms, and security at WNL. Lansdale Police will attend WNL on February 21 at 6 PM for a workshop on conflict de-escalation. Additional hospitality members are needed.

Lizzie’s Library News



Greetings, St. John’s family! It may still be cold outdoors, but the librarian and I are thinking Spring! This month some of our highlighted selections will reflect the Lenten season: renewal, luck,


and of course Easter. (Whew! It’s early this year!) She and I continue to reorganize and weed through the many titles that our treasured library holds.

Remember, St. John’s Library isn’t just for “religious” or “church” books. There are many great fiction choices and biographies too! This month we are also working together with the children and youth of St. John’s, and their project for the children of Malawi. Check out our suitcase in the library (sometimes I like to hang out there and peruse the donated books!) located near the Children’s and Young Adult corner, and please consider contributing used or new children’s and young adult titles. The children of Malawi are in need of books, and we’d like to help them build their own library collection. If you have any questions, please contact Abbie Lampe.


As always, the librarian and I appreciate your support and feedback. Feel free to offer any suggestions or comments to us! You can usually find her in the pews on a Sunday, or you can drop her a note in her mailbox in the elevator hallway. (Pssssttt...., it’s Sarah Hogan’s mailbox). Happy reading!

Lizzie

If you wish to make a donation toward Easter lilies in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out a donation form and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org by Sunday, March 24, 2024.



Lily Donation Form



In honor of _____

In memory of _____

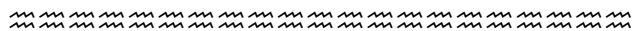
From: _____

Amount \$ _____ Envelope # _____



**ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION
March 16 at 10 AM**

A reminder: We are having a rose pruning demonstration on March 16, starting in the library for a short presentation, then going outside for hands-on pruning of St. John's rose garden. This is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors. Please email Don Atkiss at datkiss@comcast.net if you are planning to attend.



LANSDALE DAY/FIRST FRIDAYS

One of our goals for this year is to become more engaged in the North Penn community. We are looking for ideas for events that we can sponsor on Lansdale Day, First Fridays, Earth Day, and other area programs. Lansdale First Friday themes are as follows:

- May 3: Geeking Out/Comic Books
- June 7: Boardwalk
- July 5: Dog Days
- August 2: 80s Night
- September 6: Philly Sports
- October 4: Oktoberfest/Chili Cookoff
- November 1: Zombie walk

If you have any ideas for these or any other area events, please contact either Mark Bruen (markwbruen@gmail.com) or Don Atkiss (datkiss@comcast.net).

March Goodie Boxes

Please bring your donations (for packages for young people living away from home) to the church Library through March 3rd. We will be preparing 24 boxes.



Donations of nonperishable, small, sturdy food items, school items, or personal items are greatly appreciated. There will be a tear-off list of requested items for your convenience on what to purchase. Send a complete name and USPS address of your student to the Church Office or Bonnie Weber before March 3rd. Send questions to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

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

**ARTICLES DUE FOR APRIL ISSUE
DEADLINE MARCH 10**

- † Palm Sunday
- † Maundy Thursday
- † Prayer Vigil
- † Good Friday
- † Holy Saturday
- † Easter Sunday
- † Earth Day

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 (basket on top) or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

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Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Were You There?



Thirty Years Ago: Members of the Preconfirmation Class presented parables on the Assembly Room stage as part of their learning experience.

Twenty-five Years Ago: A breakfast for ushers included a discussion on "Welcoming People With Disabilities."

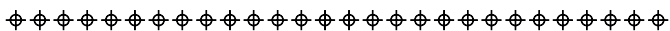
Twenty Years Ago: Sixty-seven families participated in the 2004 Financial Goal Commitment Initiative. A total of \$129,496 was pledged.

Fifteen Years Ago: Four of the older pianos at St. John's were made available to members on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ten Years Ago: Our Helping Hands group provided homemade soup and bread to families experiencing a difficult time.

Five Years Ago: Amos the Church Mouse reminded us that followers of Jesus come together in worship to encourage one another, to cheer each other on, to remind each other that we do not face the challenges of life and faith alone.

One Year Ago: The Artist Series presented Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living, with St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends and musicians from the Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra.



Soup Sale - Sunday, February 25
Order forms available in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby

Here is the chancel flower donation list for March 2024. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information.



Reminder: The requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$35. Thank you!

March 3
In memory of Nancy Kirk from her daughter, Barbara Kirk
In memory of Charles May's March 4th birthday from his wife, Connie

March 10
In memory of Christian E. Wurster's March 15th birthday from Christine Wiley
Remembering with love, Wallace and Kier MacKinstry and Granny's March 16th birthday, from the MacKinstry Rogers family

March 17
In memory of Jean MacKinstry Rogers on one of her favorite holidays, St. Patrick's Day, from Karen Filson
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Umstead and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gehman from Loretta Umstead

March 24 Palm Sunday
In memory of his parents, Gerald and Edith Linderman, on their March 26th wedding anniversary, and in memory of his brother, Mark, from Gerry and Grace Linderman
In loving memory of Louise (Grammie) Snyder's March 30th birthday from her family

March 31 Easter Sunday
In memory of Lester Long from his wife, Rachel, and family
In memory of daughter Lesley Brown's March 31st birthday, and in memory of husband, Ian Brown, from Vivienne Brown



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 directory, and cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them in the plastic floral containers located on the shelves 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; this will help us avoid replicating recipients.

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. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John’s flower ministry.

Lisa

2024

March 3	Tracey & Mark O’Neill
March 10	Kelly Bresadola
March 17	Gale Linderman
March 24	Pete Probst
March 31	Sue & Mike Donahue

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	January 2024	January 2024
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	43,223.24	43,223.24
Event Income/Fundraisers	799.00	799.00
Flowers	70.00	70.00
Rental Income	3,250.00	3,250.00
Use-of-Building income	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	5.00	5.00
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	3.99	3.99
Total Income	47,451.23	47,451.23
Gross Income	47,451.23	47,451.23
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	37,156.84	37,156.84
Elders Expenses	90.27	90.27
Deacons Expenses	1,011.57	1,011.57
Trustees/Building Expenses	1,886.95	1,886.95
Building Operation Expenses	8,102.05	8,102.05
Operating Expenses	6,268.83	6,268.83
Miscellaneous Expenses	324.04	324.04
Total Expense	54,840.55	54,840.55
Net Ordinary Income	-7,389.32	-7,389.32
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	11,599.58	11,599.58
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	4,210.26	4,210.26
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	7,700.00	7,700.00
Benevolence Offerings	10,195.13	10,195.13
Special Accounts	5,042.21	5,042.21
Total Other Income	22,937.34	22,937.34
Other Expense		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	405.45	405.45
Benevolence Disbursements	21,175.47	21,175.47
Special Fund Expenditures	3,227.90	3,227.90
Total Other Expense	24,808.82	24,808.82
Net Other Income	-1,871.48	-1,871.48
Net Income	-9,260.80	-9,260.80
Net Income Plus Transfers	2,338.78	2,338.78



Presents

ILLUMINARE

THE MUSIC OF ELAINE HAGENBERG
4pm, Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

Let the St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends accompany you on your Holy Week journey!

Elaine Hagenberg's music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity" (ACDA Choral Journal) and has quickly become a favorite composer heard in worship and concert at St. John's. This year's Palm Sunday concert will feature Hagenberg's music exclusively – from her well-known compositions *All Things New* and *The Music of Stillness* to her newest piece, *Illuminare*.

Illuminare is Elaine Hagenberg's first extended work, consisting of five movements for chorus and 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.

The St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends, under the direction of St. John's Artist Series Artistic Director Andrew Paulson, are joined by pianist Vince Ryan (Minister of Music at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville) and a full orchestra of Delaware Valley based musicians.

As always, admission is free. You won't want to miss this inspirational afternoon!

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

\$1000+

Bob Bertollette & Emilie Truscott • Grace & Mark Bruen • Suzanne & Don Franks • Bonnie & Ken Hales
John & Cynthia Overwise (in memory of Phyllis Patton) • Dan & Lillian Panachyda

\$500-\$749

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

\$250-\$499

A Friend • Mary Billy (in memory of Grace Ehly, Linda Horst, Wendy Hunt, Edna McGinley,
Jim Stevenson, & Jerry Umstead) • Susan Clemens • David Furniss • Phil & Wendy Hunt
Sally & Steve Jarinko • Barb & Robin MacMullen • Mark & Karen Methlie • John & Cynthia Overwise
Liz Rivett • Bob & Sandy Taylor • Scott & Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

Lorene Ahrens • Sally & Don Atkiss • Amy & Andy Faga • Jennifer & Charles Favata
Dorothy Frederick (in memory of Phyllis Patton) • Nicole & Donald Groff • John & Susan Hendricks
Leroy Horst • Ron & Joyce Huisenga • Alan Kerbaugh • Judy Koenig • Lansdale Montessori School
Carol Luehrs • Connie May • Ruth Moyer • Rick & Wendy O'Connor • Cynthia Overwise • Susan Popjoy
Marcia Stacy • Carol & Joe Voicheck

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.