



What a busy and bittersweet day it was this past Sunday, May 19! The Holy Spirit moved in and among us as we celebrated Pentecost, we honored Rev. Dale's retirement from a rich 40+ years in ministry, and we said goodbye to him as he completed his time with us as our Interim Senior Pastor. We have much to be grateful for as we continue to be nurtured and shaped by wise, caring, and faithful leaders. We wish Rev. Dale and his family all the best and we surround them with our love and prayers as they step into all that lies ahead!

As we continue to navigate the waters of transition here at St. John's, I wanted to take the opportunity to touch base with you as I once again step into a temporary role as Acting Lead Pastor while the search for your settled Senior Pastor continues. I hope to provide a sense of continuity, even as we lean into the new things that God is doing and calling us to in these exciting times!

Joining me on this next leg of the journey is Rev. Tom Adil, who will be serving as our Bridge Support Pastor. I have asked Rev. Tom to introduce himself. He writes,

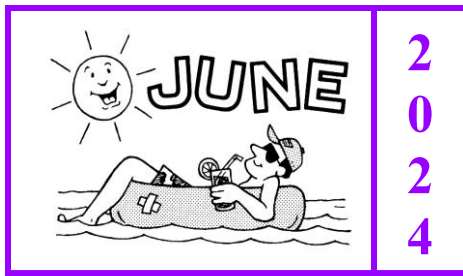
To introduce myself I'll share that probably the most important thing about me is that I am married (38 years this month) to a Spiritual Director/Minister of Christian Spirituality in the UCC! I am also the proud father of a grown daughter who resides near Pittsburgh. In December, I recently ended an almost 30-year career at Reading Hospital where I held various jobs, including the Director of Adolescent Services in the Department of Psychiatry (I'm a trained Art Therapist and Licensed Professional Counselor) and the Director of the Department of Spiritual Care. All the while I have served part time as an Interim Pastor in around 20 UCC churches in the area. As a Christian and as a Pastor, I have learned how increasingly important it has become to be more comfortable with managing the demands of change. Seeing how Jesus favored the underprivileged, for us in the UCC this often means (as a predominantly white denomination) being more comfortable with being uncomfortable. It also means being more in tune with and dependent on the Spirit, which is alternately (as Pastor Dale said this week in his sermon) amazing, exciting, and terrifying! I look forward to meeting and interacting more with you all -- the wonderful people of St. John's in Lansdale as we work together to serve others in the community in the name of our Lord!

Warmest regards,
~ Pastor Tom

I will count on each of you to introduce yourself to Tom as he leads worship on Sunday mornings, makes visits to homes and hospitals, attends to other pastoral responsibilities, and joins in the life of St. John's. I know you will welcome him into our church community with open arms and open hearts.

I will also count on your grace and understanding as our staff, many of them new among us, settles into their respective roles and "goes with the flow" right along side of you! I am once again reminded of my favorite quote: "Blessed are the flexible, for they never get bent out of shape!" May we allow God to continue to bend us, as individuals and as a community, toward what is good and faithful and life-giving!

- Rev Addie



Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago:

The *New Century Hymnals* went on sale, to be available in the pews in 1995.



Twenty-five Years Ago:

During morning worship on June 20 there was a Liturgy of Separation to remember, celebrate, and bring closure to the relationship of St. John's with Rev. John and Sheryl Touchberry.

Twenty Years Ago: St. John's picnic was held at the Upper Gwynedd Pavilion with a luau theme. All were encouraged to wear a Hawaiian Outfit. There were hula lessons followed by a hula contest.

Fifteen Years Ago: Hoagies ordered to benefit youth ministries were available on June 7.

Ten Years Ago: A Mini Golf Outing was held at Freddy Hill Fun Center. All ages were welcome, and prizes were awarded. There was a pizza lunch at noon.

Five Years Ago: St. John's T-shirts and polo shirts arrived. Profit went to the Youth Event. The hope was that wearing St. John's shirts would make St. John's more visible in the community.

One Year Ago: After a three-year hiatus, St. John's Christmas Tea returned.

St. John's Basket Raffle



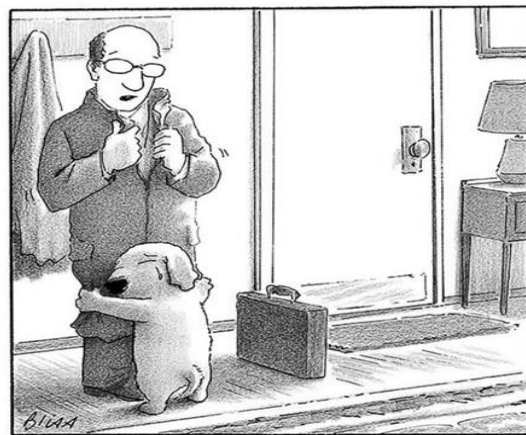
Please stop by the Fireside Room to view the Raffle Baskets and purchase tickets. The baskets will be displayed on Sundays from May 12 through June 2, at Lansdale Day on June 1, and at the Church Picnic on June 9. The drawing will be held at the Church Picnic. If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at 215.896.9381.

Articles Due for September Issue

Deadline: August 11

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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"Yes, I came back. I always come back."



Lizzie's Library News

Greetings, St. John's family!
Lizzie here, with some updates

about our library. The librarian and I, as well as Abbie Lampe, are so grateful for all of your donations for the children of Malawi. They will certainly have an excellent start to their new library!

May was a month full of Mothers and memories. We highlighted selections pertaining to the women and caretakers in our lives, as well as our Biographies section and titles pertaining to Memorial Day. May 16 was National Biography Day, and St. John's Library holds an extensive selection of biographies. When you pass through, please check them out! We were so fortunate to have received a generous donation of Young Adult/Teen books. The librarian and I have catalogued these treasures for our young readers. So many good selections to choose from! This month, we will feature titles that are reflective of summer, Father's Day, Juneteenth, and Pride Month. Did you know that June is the month with the longest daylight hours? Even more time and opportunity to read! The name "June" comes from the Roman goddess, Juno, who was the goddess of marriage, childbirth, and love. Maybe this is why June has long been considered the wedding month! Next time you're in church, stop by our library and discover the many treasures within our shelves!

Happy Reading from Lizzie!

WHAT'S UP IN COUNCIL?



Financial Report: Grace Bruen, Financial Chair

In April St. John's exceeded our goal for tithes & offerings, receiving \$34,696.25 against a budgeted amount of \$30,720, exceeding our projections by \$3,976.25. We had total income of \$51,401.89 (including the budgeted transfer of \$11,599.58), against a budgeted amount of \$47,782.26, meaning we exceeded our expectations by \$3,619.63.

Expenses were \$58,791.21 against a budgeted amount of \$51,006.53. St. John's came out short of our expenses by -\$7,784.68. We are entering the spring and summer months, and a budget shortfall is expected.

We continue to budget by month, expecting to accumulate a buffer of income early in the year to last us through the predicted slump of summer months. We have received income year to date of \$223,199.13 against expenses of 220,257.32, giving us a net income YTD of \$2,942. We have projected a buffer of \$11,273, meaning we are behind our projection by -\$8,331, compared to our shortfall at the end of March of -\$4,166. We have just about doubled the shortfall as compared to last month.

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We can expect income to continue to be below expenses through the summer months.

Donations to our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) were \$2,516.00 for April and \$26,557 for the year against a projection of \$15,895, meaning we are \$662 ahead of our projection.

For those who prefer to see these numbers in chart form, see page 10 of this Enlightener.

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

Staff Reports:

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

- Dale mentioned this is his last Council meeting.
- Personnel Committee, Mark Bruen, Deb Dayton, and Susan Fitzpatrick did an exit interview of Dale's time with St. John's. A report is available.
- Addie stated 6 new members were received during worship, including one baptism.
- Wednesday, May 15 is the last WNL until September.
- May 19 is Pentecost worship, and the congregation will say goodbye to Rev. Dale.
- Andrew stated he has accepted a position to be on the Board of the American Guild of Organists.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

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A surprise is planned for the church picnic on June 9.

Kay Peebles, Office Administrator

- No report at this time.

Grace Marchione, Communications Director

Grace is working on getting information out to the community regarding the basket raffle and picnic.

Mark Bruen stated help is needed on Lansdale Day with tables, baskets, and information tent. Email Mark Bruen (markwbruen@gmail.com) if available to help set up or tear down.

Board Reports:

Trustees: (Bob Bertollette)

- Elevator repair will cost \$13,818.61. Immediate Needs Fund will be used.
- Montessori building inspection found no deficiencies.

Deacons: (Scott Vanderburg)

- Church Picnic is Sunday, June 9, at Plains Mennonite Church.
- Basket raffle will be held at the picnic.
- Picnic signup sheets will be used for an approximate count.
- Social hosts are needed. Scott will add the request to the Herald.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

- VBS Carryout Connection will be ready to distribute June 2. Monthly program will meet in person at the end of June, July, and August).

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Our last WNL of the season is May 22 as a Game Night. The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6.45 PM.

- There will be candy toss and games at the picnic.

Elders: (Susan Fitzpatrick)

- Laity Sunday is June 9.
- Average March attendance for 10:15 AM worship was 129; for WNL, 33.

Current Business—Priority Initiatives

Priority #1: Hire Senior Pastor

Addie's Call Agreement (Mark Bruen)

Once Dale retires, Addie will assume Acting Lead Pastor beginning June 1, 2024.

A new Call Agreement was generated based on role definition. The Conference was contacted regarding the updated agreement. Elders voted to approve the new Call Agreement. This agreement was sent to the Personnel Committee.

A clause was added to the contract that an assessment will be completed in January 2025 and a joint decision will be made regarding the situation. Addie will no longer be serving as Associate Pastor, with a salary level 15% less than Senior Pastor, as dictated by the Conference.

Search and Call Process (Susan Fitzpatrick)

The first interview was held. To date 7 profiles have been received for review.

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Priority #2: Communications—

Internal and External

Kickoff of St. John's Communications Task Force (Mark Hogan and Mark Bruen)

Additional candidates are being sought who are social-media savvy. A meeting will be scheduled once the entire task force is identified.

Communications Sessions during Social Hour (Deborah Dayton)

June 9: A Congregational Meeting will take the place during Social Hour

Outreach Mission beyond St. John's (Don Atkiss and Mark Bruen)

Monthly events with the community are being planned. Don Atkiss has taken a lead role in community outreach.

- **June 1:** Lansdale Day and Basket Raffle (Judy Johnston and Mark Bruen). Setup help will be needed for the raffle and information tent.
- **June 7:** First Friday/Boardwalk (Mark Bruen). Information tent to be set up.
- **June 8:** Norristown Garden Club will tour the Meditation Garden and the stained-glass windows, 10 AM-4 PM. (Don Atkiss and Margie Jewell)
- **July 5:** First Friday "Dog Days." Blessing of the Animals on Anchor House Lot.
- **Potential Events:** Cars and Coffee. Under the Lights Car Show.

Grace Marchione will be included in the above dates for communication with the community.

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St. John's Reach Out to Members Initiative (Deb Dayton)

A small group has been formed to reach out and contact congregation members not seen in a while.

New Business:

Summer Church Hours

Sunday Worship hour will be adjusted to 9:30 AM beginning Sunday, June 2, through Sunday, September 1. Regular service time will begin September 8. Grace Marchione will communicate with members and the community.

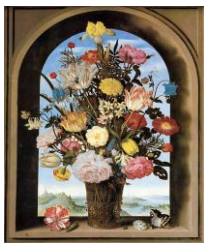
Building Use Procedures (Mark Bruen)

A committee is being formed to identify and update guidelines to handle requests for building use. Ken Hales has offered to help and Mark is still looking for a couple more volunteers for this task.

Old Business:

Congregational Meeting, June 9

The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after worship prior to the church picnic.



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 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.

Kay

June 2	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
June 9	Grace & Gerry Linderman
June 16	Shelly Longcoy
June 23	Judy Johnston
June 30	Kay Peebles & Grace Marchione

July 7	Gayle & Bob George
July 14	Ruth Kinsey
July 21	Lillian & Dan Panachyda
July 28	Mary Billy

August 4	Cindy Reese
August 11	Lisa Thim
August 18	Barb & Don Fretz
August 25	Susan & John Hendricks

Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2024
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	34,696.25	156,697.28
Event Income/Fundraisers	741.00	4,184.00
Flowers	455.00	2,007.00
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	260.06	266.53
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	0.00	146.00
Rental Income	3,250.00	13,000.00
Use of Building Income	400.00	500.00
Total Income	39,802.31	176,800.81
Gross Income	39,802.31	176,800.81
Expense		
Building Operation Expenses	8,459.88	30,305.82
Deacons Expenses	2,634.37	7,062.11
Elders Expenses	106.30	564.60
Miscellaneous Expenses	54.60	436.51
Operating Expenses	5,514.41	24,372.05
Salaries and Benefits	37,844.15	148,786.11
Trustees/Building Expenses	4,177.50	8,730.12
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	58,791.21	220,257.32
Net Operating Income	-18,988.90	-43,456.51
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	11,599.58	46,398.32
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-7,389.32	2,941.81
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	1,632.00	21,842.00
Benevolence Offerings	4,438.50	26,770.63
Soup/Cookies Sales	1,126.00	1,734.00
Special Accounts	4,108.00	19,607.21
Total Other Income	11,304.50	69,953.84
Other Expenses		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	6,861.96	27,094.54
Benevolence Disbursements	7,210.00	36,788.47
Soup Sale Expenditures	1,126.00	1,126.00
Special-Fund Expenditures	24,048.80	31,898.53
Total Other Expenses	39,246.76	96,907.54
Net Other Income	-27,942.26	-26,953.70
Net Income	-46,931.16	-70,410.21
Net Income Plus Transfers	-35,331.59	-24,011.89

Here is the chancel
flower donation list for
June, July, and August
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 \$40.
Thank you!*

June 2

In memory of The Rev. Herman and
Mrs. Ella Ahrens from Lorene Ahrens
In memory of Mr. Robert M.
Jenkinson and Mrs. Emma Kemp
Jenkinson from Joan Jenkinson Haag
Beiter

June 9

In memory of Sara Line's birthday
from her sister, Jeane, and Bob Fritz
In celebration of Polly Hartzell's
birthday on June 11 from Dee
Reedman and Family
In memory of Dr. Herman C. Ahrens
Jr.'s June 12 birthday from his loving
family

June 16 Father's Day

In honor of the 74th wedding
anniversary of our parents, Lorene and
the late Herman Ahrens, on June 18th,
from their loving family
In memory of Warren Koenig from his
wife, Judy

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

In memory of David Evans from Jeane Fritz and family

In memory of William C. Fritz for Father's Day from Robert, Connie, Judy, and family

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

In memory of Jim Stevenson on Father's Day and his 75th birthday on June 15 from his wife, Lois, and family

June 23

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

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

June 30

In memory of Eric Kirk from his mother, Barbara Kirk

July 7

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

July 14

In memory of dear friend Scott Harmon's July 15th birthday from Barbara Kirk

In memory of Evaline Cagney from her husband, Bill Cagney

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

July 21

In celebration of Dr. Bill Hartzell's July 24th birthday from Dee Reedman & family

July 28

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

In memory of Richard (Pete) Mininger's July 31st birthday from his wife Shirley, son Douglas, and daughters Dawn and Connie

August 4

Remembering Rev. Sue on the 2nd anniversary of her passing on August 4, with love from the Bertollette family

In memory of Warren Badger's August 6th birthday from his daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

August 11

In memory of Rev. Sue on what would be her 69th birthday on August 13 from her loving family

August 18

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



VFW Post 32 in Lansdale will be retiring American Flags that have finished their useful life. There is a kitchen-size trash can in the Church Library. Please put your flag there. Rickie Sands will be taking them to the Post for proper disposal with ceremony and burning to be done on June 14, Flag Day.

	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	% Difference
April Total Income (including investments transfer)	\$ 47,782	\$ 51,402	\$ 3,620	7.58%
April Expenses	\$ 51,007	\$ 58,791	\$ 7,785	15.26%
April Net Income	\$ (3,224)	\$ (7,389)	\$ (4,165)	129.18%
YTD Income	\$ 223,363	\$ 223,199	\$ (163)	-0.07%
YTD Expenses	\$ 212,089	\$ 220,257	\$ 8,168	3.85%
YTD Net Income	\$ 11,273	\$ 2,942	\$ (8,331)	-73.90%
OCWM YTD Giving	\$ 15,895	\$ 16,557	\$ 662	4.17%

Found this in stuff my mom saved for me :)

Planting Your Spring Garden

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love.
There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap
What You Sow. Pass It On!!!

ST. JOHN'S
Artist Series

Andrew Paulson, Artistic Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON



Sunday, November 10, 2024, 4pm

Lehigh-Valley based Mainstreet Brass will present a program that is sure to reach listeners of all ages. The glorious sounds of trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion will fill the sanctuary to begin our season.



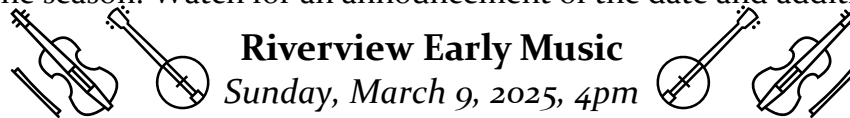
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 4pm

Musicians from St. John's and North Penn High School combine for our annual holiday spectacular with choir, organ, and brass. It's not the Christmas season without the St. John's Artist Series Christmas Festival.



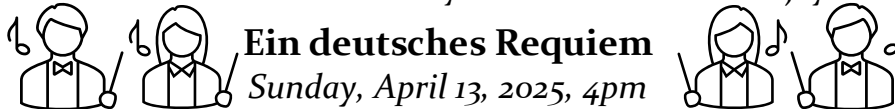
Early 2025, Date to Be Announced

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year. The Midwinter Gala is an evening of dinner, drinks, and dancing – all in celebration of the St. John's Artist Series. A silent auction with one-of-a-kind items and experiences make this the event of the season. Watch for an announcement of the date and additional details soon.



Sunday, March 9, 2025, 4pm

Bucks County-based Riverview Early Music will present late medieval, renaissance, and early baroque music played on period instruments. Come and embrace early music as a source of enjoyment and inspiration.



Sunday, April 13, 2025, 4pm

The North Penn Chamber Singers and St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends combine with orchestra to present this choral masterwork by Johannes Brahms. Join us as we conclude the season with this magnificent work.

All concerts are held in the sanctuary of St. John's United Church of Christ and are free of charge.

The Midwinter Gala is held at PineCrest Country Club and is a ticketed event.

Looking for additional information about upcoming concerts, the Midwinter Gala, or the St. John's Artist Series? Scan the QR code below, visit our website: www.stjohnsartistseries.org, or email us at: info@stjohnsartistseries.org



