



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

Enlightener

June, 2018 Vol. XXXVIII, No. 06

When All Else Fails . . .

On many occasions throughout my ministry, I have heard folks say “When all else fails, pray.” A radio advertisement for an online service that matches people looking for jobs with employers searching for qualified candidates urges employers not to just “pray and wait” but to make use of their service. I cringe when I hear statements like these suggesting that prayer is not particularly effective and should be turned to only as a last resort ~ when all other options have been exhausted ~ because we, as people of faith, view prayer differently.

Prayer is not a magic wand that we wave, anticipating we will get everything we want or ask for. Nor is it something we engage in expecting that once we have prayed, we can sit back and do nothing. Praying is about being in relationship with the One in whom we have placed our faith and trust. Praying serves as a constant reminder that we are not in this alone and we cannot manage in this life without God’s help and guidance. At its best, praying becomes a way of life for us, something we engage in so often that it is as natural as breathing, eating or talking with a trusted friend.

Poet Mary Oliver describes praying as paying attention and “patching a few words together.” In her poem entitled “*Praying*,” she clarifies what she means by patching a few words together: “. . . don’t try to make them elaborate, this isn’t a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.”

Listening and gratitude are at the heart of prayer. If there is no silence ~ that is, if there is no space in our praying to listen for God ~ we have missed the point. And if words of thanksgiving do not characterize our prayers from start to finish, we will never fully experience the life-giving power prayer has to offer. It is also important to remember that fancy church-sounding words are not necessary in order for prayer to be effective. What is necessary, however, is honesty, authenticity and vulnerability. After all, God knows what we are thinking ~ we might as well speak it, even if our words are words of anger, fear, disappointment, anxiety or despair.

More than once I have pointed out that a church is only as strong as the individual prayer lives of its members. Not a one of us can pray for everything or everyone who may be in need of prayer, but together we can make a world of difference. Together we can cover the bases, complete the circle, and shine the light of hope that enables us and others to keep on keeping on. The whole is most definitely greater than the sum of its parts when it comes to the important work of prayer. May praying be our first response rather than our last resort, and may all of our praying be accompanied by actions that reflect God’s love and grace.

Rew. Sue



CHURCH SCHOOL	SUNDAYS	9:00 AM
WORSHIP	SUNDAYS	8:00 & 10:15 AM

"AFTER WORSHIP" REFERS TO THE 10:15 AM SERVICE.

EVENTS		
6/3	SUNDAY SCHOOL APPRECIATION SOCIAL	9:00 AM
6/10	MANNA SUNDAY GRADUATE SUNDAY CHURCH PICNIC	AFTER WORSHIP
6/12	MEN'S BREAKFAST	9:00 AM
6/16	WOMEN'S RETREAT BRUNCH	9:00-11:30 AM
6/17	FATHER'S DAY FAIRLY TRADED COFFEE SALES	AFTER WORSHIP
6/18- 6/21	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & DINNER	6:00- 8:30 PM
6/25	61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCC	
6/26	WORSHIP AT MANNA	7:15 PM
6/27	COMMUNION	NOON AND 12:30 PM

REHEARSALS (RESUME IN SEPTEMBER)		
CHANCEL CHOIR	THURSDAYS	7:30 PM
UNITED RINGERS	THURSDAYS	6:15 PM

MEETINGS		
AA	TUESDAYS FRIDAYS	7:30 PM 8:30 PM
AZUL DANCE	TBD	
BOARDS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS	6/11	7:00 & 8:00 PM
BROWNIES AND GIRL SCOUTS	6/4 TUESDAY 6/5	6:30 PM 7:00 PM
CHESS CLUB	FRIDAYS	6:00 PM
NAMI	6/5	7:00 PM
PRAYER GROUP	6/25	7:00 PM
PRAYER SHAWL	6/4	6:30 PM
PRAYER WALK	6/14 & 28	7:00 AM
QUILTERS	TUESDAYS	1:30 PM
ST. JOHN'S STAMPERS	6/14	1:00 PM
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	6/4	7:00 PM
THE ART OF LIVING	SATURDAYS	10:00 AM
YOGA	THURSDAYS	7:00 PM

June ushers



<i>June 3</i>	<i>Jim Lederach</i>
<i>June 10</i>	<i>Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie</i>
<i>June 17</i>	<i>Gerald Linderman</i>
<i>June 24</i>	<i>Nancy Roberts, Roger Atkin</i>

MISSIONS: AT HOME & ABROAD

In the Philippines, **Nickole Florence Inog** at 18 has aged out of our program. Happily, she has graduated from high school and will attend Silliman University to study Information Technology. Her advisor has written, "On behalf of Nickole Florence Inog and her whole family, I am expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the support that St. John's UCC has extended through the years." We wish her the very best! Her strong faith, her leadership skills, and her many good friends will carry her through this next phase of life. Check the Overseas Children's bulletin board near the library to see her graduation picture.

Yashi Chhoten's advisor, Tenzin Zeden, writes that Yashi had a fruitful two-month visit with her mother who lives eight hours away. She is now in school and enjoying her classwork.

Tenzin writes, "Your letter of motivation, encouragement, and love is very much appreciated and Yashi is always looking forward to reading your news—reading what the children in your church are doing. We thank the entire membership of St. John's UCC for the good service that you all do in the name of humanity."

Yashi writes that she is now 15, studying Tibetan, Hindi, and English and math, science, and social studies. "In my new class I make many new friends." She finished with a poem, "Rose is red, Sky is blue, Oh my sponsor, I love you." And "Bye Bye, see you in next letter." Yashi's illustrated letter and picture are posted on the children's bulletin board near the library.

Submitted by Sylvia Bingham on behalf of the Outreach Team

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: St. John's was the host church for the Christmas Caravan, providing room for the bazaar and providing a musical program.

Twenty-five Years Ago: St. John's youth were invited to join youth from across the nation in St. Louis for a midnight vesper service, a dance, and skits. The importance of helping others was demonstrated through participation in Habitat for Humanity and Neighborhood Houses.

Twenty Years Ago: Church World Service established the Fund to Eradicate Landmines Worldwide in memory of Princess Diana and the 26,000 men, women, and children who are killed or injured annually by landmines. In Cambodia people collected spent shells and defused mines and recast them into cowbells.

Fifteen Years Ago: St. John's Youth Group provided a fun idea for the summer. Members could surprise someone on their birthday or anniversary or welcome someone to the neighborhood: Flamingo a Yard for \$20. When the flamingo was placed on the yard, a phone number was provided to have the bird removed within 24 hours for a donation of \$10. If there was no call, the flamingo was removed within one week.

Ten Years Ago: We wished farewell and Godspeed to Matt Harp, who served as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for more than four years. Matt wrote "I have truly enjoyed my time at St. John's and it will forever have an impact on me. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me and I feel I have grown personally and professionally through it.

Five Years Ago: Rev. Ryan initiated a golf outing, including breakfast, beginning in June and going through August.

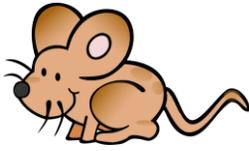
One Year Ago: On June 25, Grace Bruen gave a presentation on our finances and the Stewardship Committee provided ice cream sundaes. Another good reason for the sundaes was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Church of Christ.



Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Apr 2018	Jan—Apr 2018
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Tithes/Offerings	40,082.09	137,148.46
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	649.75
Flowers	470.00	1,778.00
Investment Income	2,415.66	4,632.66
Rental Income	2,350.00	9,400.00
Use of Building Income	220.00	1,240.00
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	461.00	2,539.64
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	10.79	43.44
Total Income	46,009.54	157,431.95
Gross Income	46,009.54	157,431.95
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	31,508.79	126,035.16
Elders Expenses	77.01	114.89
Deacons Expenses	1,891.07	5,015.11
Educators Expenses	481.65	481.65
Trustees/Building Expenses	2,347.90	7,070.21
Building Operation Expenses	5,967.97	26,481.08
Operating Expenses	4,136.55	22,515.85
Miscellaneous Expenses	359.54	989.10
Total Expense	46,770.48	188,703.05
Net Ordinary Income	-760.94	-31,271.10
Budgeted Transfers From Investments	5,262.87	25,901.13
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	4,501.93	-5,369.97



Summary of Last Month And YTD Income And Expense	Apr 2017	Jan—Apr 2017
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	261.00	2,042.00
Benevolence Offerings	7,537.09	21,506.03
Special Accounts	2,481.84	10,626.02
Soup Sales	601.00	1,648.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	137.00
Immediate-Needs Income	250.00	1,000.00
Total Other Income	11,130.93	36,959.05
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	4,719.00	13,972.84
Special Fund Expenditures	8,620.00	15,248.19
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	1,273.00
Rummage Sale Expenditures	0.00	906.08
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	200.00	1,625.00
Total Other Expense	13,539.00	33,025.11
Net Other Income	-2,408.07	3,933.94
Net Income	-3,169.01	-27,337.16
Net Income Plus Transfers	1,332.92	-1,436.03



News From The Pews

Once again, it is that time of year when I get to introduce you to the members of the 2017-2018 Confirmation Class. These seven young people became official members of St. John's on Pentecost, May 20, when we celebrated their journey and the commitment they were making to being part of our church family. This little church mouse has already gotten to know them pretty well because I attended all of their classes (and enjoyed the crumbs each time they had lunch together!), and I hope you, too, will seek to get to know each of these amazing teenagers in the weeks ahead.

Alex Ace is a student at Indian Crest Middle School, where his favorite subject is math. He likes playing basketball and being outside, and his favorite color is red. Alex has two dogs.

Jessica Ace, Alex's twin sister, is also a student at Indian Crest Middle School, where her favorite subject is English (Language Arts). She plays the flute and violin, enjoys lacrosse and swimming, and in her free time likes to draw.

Emily Donahue is a student at Pennfield Middle School, where she plays field hockey and her favorite subject is English. Emily also swims and dives, loves animals—especially her dog Jessie—and wants to be an occupational therapist one day. If you are looking for a babysitter, give Emily a call!

Anna Evans has big dreams as she looks toward the future: She wants to be an Olympic US Women's Water Polo player. For now, she is happy to work toward her goal while enjoying her three sisters, her dog Lexi, and her extended family and friends. Anna's favorite food is anything with potatoes, she likes the color purple, and, like Emily, is eager to babysit to help earn a little extra money, so keep her in mind.

Aidan Gage is a student at Penndale Middle School, where his favorite subject is math. When he is older, he would like to be a lawyer. Aidan loves dogs, especially his dog Barnegat. His favorite food is chicken, his favorite color is red, and what matters most to Aidan is his family.

Darcy Reese is also a student at Penndale Middle School. When asked to share a few things about herself that might be interesting to others, she shared that she is left-handed and has a blind cat. Engage Darcy in conversation and I assure you, you will learn more interesting facts about what makes her tick!

Connor Sivco, a student at Penndale Middle School, plays ice hockey for North Penn, plays the clarinet, and enjoys music. He also can help with weeding if you are looking for someone to assist you in your yard or garden, but Connor is a busy young man, so you'll have to catch him when his schedule is open.

AMOS

COUNCIL MINUTES

June Social Hosts

- 6/3 Jane & Alan Malachowski
- 6/10 Church Picnic
- 6/17 Stef Giampa & Jenn Moyer
- 6/24 Stewardship Sundaes

If you have a conflict, please try to find a replacement from the complete list of social hosts.



Articles Due for September Issue

Deadline: August 12

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

- ❖ Celebration Sunday
- ❖ Blessing of the Animals

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 (bottom bin), or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237.

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Love one another and help others to rise to the higher levels, simply by pouring out love. Love is infectious and the greatest healing energy.

~ Sai Baba, Indian Spiritual Master

Financial Report: Sandy and Bob Taylor, Cotreasureers:

The ordinary income in April of \$46,009.54 almost covered our ordinary expenses of \$46,770.48 even without the budgeted transfer. With the budgeted transfer from investments to the checking account of \$5,262.87, we had a monthly surplus of \$4,502. This reduced our YTD shortfall by almost half; YTD our ordinary income with budgeted transfers is short of our expenses by \$5,370, or 2.8%. (Lest we rejoice too much, it should be noted that April was a good month in large part because there were five Sundays in the month giving us more income than would be expected in a four-Sunday month such as this May or June).

This year we have committed to an OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution of \$45,726, or about \$3,810 a month. Our OCWM contributions in April totaled \$4,893. YTD, we are about \$247 (or 1.6%) above where we should be after four months.

Questions regarding the recording of monthly transfer amounts were answered. Please feel free to share other questions or concerns with our Cotreasureers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor: Seven confirmands will be confirmed on May 20. Please wear red to church that day! In early June, Rev. Sue, Rev. Addie, Janet Morton, and Sally Jarinko will attend the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference spring meeting at West Chester University.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor: Addie has been busy getting ready for Confirmation and VBS. She noted that two of St. John's youth attended the Pennsylvania Southeast Youth Event in April.

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David Furniss, Minister of Music: The April 29 Artist Series was a success, both musically and financially. Donations from the concert (\$625) were donated to the Good Samaritan Fund. Next year's Artist Series will also feature some fundraising. Proceeds from the October Artist Series concert, which will feature Spanish and Mexican organ music, will be donated to the Oaxaca Learning Center. St. John's has been hosting the May Tuesday noon AGO organ recitals. There has been good attendance and organists have loved playing our newly renovated organ.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth: Abbie was very pleased with the children's musical *100% Chance of Rain* and appreciated the contributions of adult singers and instrumentalists. She is hoping to follow up next year with another musical event!

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator: Lisa was pleased to announce that the Good Samaritan Fund is now approaching \$1700 and will help meet requests for assistance over the summer.

New Business: Rev. Sue was visited by representatives of the National UCC Pension Board. They are seeking funds for a national capital campaign, Generations of Service. Their goal is to raise \$20 million over the next 5 years. This campaign would support new clergy as well as clergy in need. Our support of the campaign could be offered over a 3- to 5-year period, similar to our previous support of MANNA and Phoebe Ministries CPE program. Rev. Sue asked us to prayerfully consider this request and it will be revisited at our June meeting. She has no preconceived notion of an amount, but did note that the GEM fund is an appropriate source for funding.

Board of Deacons:

This is the menu for the Church Picnic at Plains Mennonite Church Park on June 10: roast chicken, BBQ pulled pork and rolls, corn on the cob, mac and cheese, hot dogs and rolls, condiments, and beverages.

There will be a signup sheet up for the picnic with a reminder to be "green" and bring your own tableware.

New Business

The Deacons met with the Trustees to begin talks about purchasing new electric-start stoves for the kitchen. Leroy and Steve will get approximately three quotes and we will present a plan to Council.

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Board of Educators:

On June 3 there is a Sunday School social for family and friends from 9 AM to 10 AM. Each Sunday School class will be presenting a play, singing, or providing a game. Light refreshments will be served.

June 10 is the last day for Sunday School.



June 18 to 21 is Vacation Bible School. Theme: iCare emoji. At 6:00 PM there is a fellowship supper followed by the program from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

June 2018 Acolytes	
6/3	Andrew & Christopher DiPlacido
6/10	Alexi & Evie Hutchinson
6/17	Mitchell O'Neill & Ray Stahler
6/24	Emily & Ryan Donahue

Junior Church Schedule June 2018		
6/3	Jen DiPlacido 215.542.1058	reedman73@msn.com
6/10	Jen Gilbert 215.350.9246	jengilbert3108@comcast.net
6/17	Nakeyia Wilkinson 215.362.6201	prutink1717@gmail.com
6/24	Kim Sands 215.412.2837	pchefkim@comcast.net

Board of Elders:

Elder of the Morning

Date	Elder	Special Activity
6/3	Deborah Dayton	
6/10	Jo-Ann Sine	Recognize the Graduates Church Picnic
6/17	Marcia Stacy	Father's Day
6/25	Sumiko Booraem	

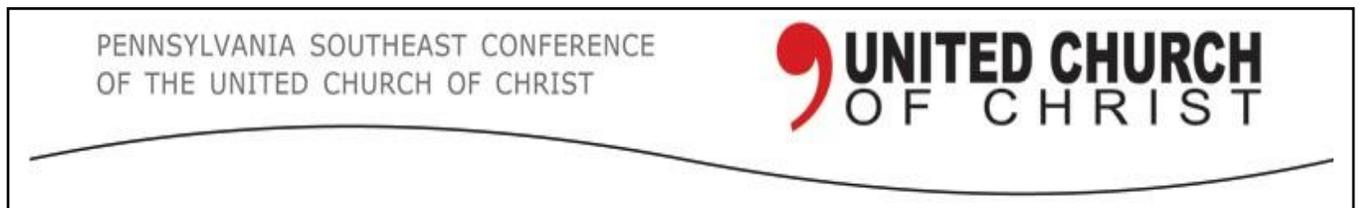
UMBRELLA MINISTRY	
6/3	Marilyn Nannen
6/10	Nancy Roberts
6/17	Sumiko Booraem
6/24	Marcia Stacy

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April 2018 Attendance

Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	Past 5 Years	Average
04/1*	275	218	493	2017	297
04/8	74	151	225	2016	238
04/15	54	164	218	2015	328
04/22	57	140	197	2014	368
04/29	48	182	230	2013	244
TOTAL	508	855	1363		
*Easter Sunday/Communion		Average per Week = 273		5-Year Average = 295	

Palm Sunday 3/25	Maundy Thursday 3/29	Good Friday 3/30	Easter Sunday 4/1	Past 5 Years	Easter Sunday
301	117	37	493	2017	549
				2016	509
				2015	547
				2014	551
				2013	574
Note: Easter was in April in 2017, 2015 & 2014				5-Year Average = 546	



The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference (PNEC) and the 2017 Spring Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) approved the creation of the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team (JCVDT) to develop a model of a new conference in Eastern Pennsylvania with a new understanding of conference ministry, identity, purpose, and mission for the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ in Eastern Pennsylvania. The proposed timeline to complete this mission is autumn of 2018 so that it can be voted on by both conferences at a joint meeting. Should the new conference be approved it will be presented to General Synod 2019 for approval. The JCVDT has been asked multiple times why we're doing this work of creating a new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The best answer we can give is when God gives us an opportunity to create something new, you take it and see where God will lead us.

Committees on ministry from both conferences held a workshop to share best practices and begin to think about how Committee on Ministries might work in a new conference. A joint PNEC and PSEC retreat was held at which the JCVDT shared its work, results from the surveys and town meetings, staff interviews, and results from the joint Committee on Ministries Day. Two values statements were suggested to be included in the draft of our Vision, Mission, and Purpose. The first is "to serve God with passion and our neighbors with compassion" and the other is "to be committed to having the diversity of God's children at the Table."

Looking ahead, the PSEC consistory and the PNEC board came to a consensus that the JCVDT would do the work of creating a possible new conference with outlines of staff, association, and budget structures. These would then be recommended to the two governing boards for consideration. Should they approve the structure outlines, a resolution will go to General Synod for permission to change the boundaries of our conferences so that we can begin to live into these new structures.

ST. JOHN'S
Artist Series

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in, attended, and supported this past season of Artist Series Concerts, celebrating the complete renovation of the Schultz Memorial Organ by the Reuter Organ Company.

Through donations from Patrons, as well as Free-will Offerings, this season of concerts was generously supported. In response to Rev. Sue's announcement in April, we were able to donate a total of \$625.00 from the offering at the April 29th concert to St. John's Good Samaritan Fund. This fund allows the pastors and staff to give discretionary assistance to those in our community who have immediate and often unexpected needs.

Plans are well underway for next season's Artist Series events. Here is a preview of the fall schedule:

Sunday, October 7, 4:00 pm – David Furniss, Organist

A Concert of Mexican Organ Music to Benefit the Oaxaca Learning Center

Sunday, October 28, 4:00 pm – Joshua Stafford, Organist

Winner of the 2016 Longwood Organ Competition

Sunday, December 16, 4:00 pm – Christmas Concert

North Penn High School Chamber Singers

St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends

PATRONS OF ST. JOHN'S ARTIST SERIES ~ 2017-2018

Benefactor – Lorene Ahrens, Lynne Bartholomew, Sandy & Scott Brown, Mark & Grace Bruen, Den & Ruth Ellman, Steve & Dot Frederick, A Friend, David Furniss, Ken & Bonnie Hales, Leroy & Linda Horst, Anne & Eric Kinsey, Bill & Judy Leslie, Mark & Karen Methlie, Rick & Wendy O'Connor, Dan & Lillian Panachyda, Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Arlene Studer

Sponsor – Don & Sally Atkiss, Bob & Sue Bertolette, Steve & Debby Hendricks, Marcia Stacy, Scott & Liz Vanderburg

Donor – Marie Boulton, Jean & Bob Fehnel, Don & Barb Fretz, Nicole & Don Groff, Doris Latta, Jean Roshong, Beth Vandewater, Joe & Carol Voicheck

Friend - Kathleen Campbell, Brandi & Ryan Kinsey, Gale Linderman, Mary Lou Lutter, Mary Lynne Snyder