

# October

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

## Enlightener

October 2024 Vol. XLIV, No. 08

### Giving Our All And The Widow's Mite (Mark 12: 38-44)

When the widow in this well-known story of scripture (Mark: 38-44) hits our ear, one is tempted to compare what the poor woman gives to what the rich give. We are trained early on to consider wealth to be a virtue – as the old saying by Ella Fitzgerald goes, “I’ve been rich and I have been poor...and believe me baby, rich is better!”

As our Stewardship Campaign at St. John’s begins to mount up, though, we urge you to consider a deeper interpretation of this story:

“And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So, He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

What if...instead of considering this as a story just about money (which, of course it is always about money to a degree), it is also – at a deeper level – a story about the riches within? I think Jesus may well be implying that the widow’s gift was so rich because she lived her life with God as the Center, and through her vision of God’s Kin-dom, in return she gained a gift of inestimable value. The widow may well have known that her two mites were an insignificant token to give for the glory of the Kin-dom in the face of God’s riches. Yet, what apparently made the widows’ contribution so powerful - in Jesus’ estimation - is the widow’s ability to see God in all God’s glory. When we see Jesus in the way that the widow viewed him - as the source of our own worth and our identity, then we, too, may realize the source of our own inner true riches.

So, what does all this have to do with giving to St. John’s? Everything! If we are growing in our faith, we will know the blessings we have received. Knowing how blessed we really are, we cannot but give our all to Jesus – that is, to give him our acknowledgment that we are his and he is our Savior...that Christ is the source of all we have and will have. Apprehending this moves us towards giving our all.

I hope that you will join this year’s campaign with new eyes of faith, knowing that our rich heritage in Jesus compels us to see the reasons we have what we have - as well as how this knowledge moves us to share of our rich blessings to further expand God’s realm in the world.

After prayerful thought, please complete the attached Covenant Card. You may put it in the basket on the Communion Table or in the offering plate. All of the cards will be dedicated during worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 10. Giving Our All is the key to keep St. John’s strong.

Grace and Peace,

The Stewardship Committee

Pastor Tom

Liz Rivett

Karen Metellia Jay Luber  
Suzanne Brown  
Stephen D. Butz  
Sally Jarinko



**What's Up in Church Council?**

**Were You There?**  
**Thirty Years Ago:** The deteriorating storage barn was torn down and replaced with the current prefab unit.



**Twenty-five Years Ago:** Brand-new, very effective and well-received hearing devices were purchased.

**Twenty Years Ago:** The initial Alternative Gift Market (now the Charitable Gift Market) was held at St. John's.

**Fifteen Years Ago:** The Stewardship Committee designated October 25th as "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday."

**Ten Years Ago:** St. John's Quilters have completed 34 quilts for distribution to Native Americans.

**Five Years Ago:** October's organ concert featured John Deahl, who works for Reuter Organ Company and designed the St. John's organ pipe layout.

**One Year Ago:** The Stewardship Campaign theme for the year was "Investing in Our Future." Sunday, October 22, was the kickoff; covenant cards were dedicated on Sunday, November 12.

**Financial Report: Matt Carson, Financial Chair**

**Year-to-Date Financial Summary:**

**1. Income:**

Total year-to-date income is \$294,875, compared to a budgeted amount of \$309,991, creating a shortfall of \$15,116. Including the investment transfer of \$111,559, total income stands at \$407,128. The 4th quarter planned transfer from investments will be lower than originally planned, as the annual investment transfer of \$10,024 from the Boorse Fund has been received on top of the first 3 quarter investment transfers.

**2. Expenses:**

Total year-to-date expenses are \$428,177, which is \$8,069 less than the budgeted amount of \$436,246.

**3. Overall Financial Status:**

With the investment transfer included, the year-to-date deficit is \$21,049, compared to the projected deficit of \$5,072. This indicates a larger shortfall than planned.

**OCWM:**

Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) for July were \$1,859. Year-to-date donations total \$35,578, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$28,145, reflecting strong support in this area.

*[continued on next page]*

In summary, St. John's is experiencing financial challenges, with a significant shortfall in income leading to a larger year-to-date deficit than projected. However, donations to OCWM are performing well above expectations. While we expect the expenses will even out as the year progresses, our current income projections will leave us behind by \$15,978 at the end of the year.

**Staff and Contractor Reports:**

**Ministerial Staff (Addie Stong, Tom Adil, Andrew Paulson):**

This was Addie's last Council meeting at St. John's.

Andrew encouraged everyone to experience Holden Evening Prayer during WNL. Holden Evening Prayer is a sung service of evening prayer, an ancient worship tradition called Vespers, which has been sung for centuries. The program will begin at 7:00 PM, bringing peace and light to the end of your day.

Tom mentioned communion will be served at WNL. The book, "*The Road Back to You*" is the self-study guide to be used during the Adult Education time of WNL. Its focus is how different personality types have an impact on how we grow and interact with the world spiritually.

**Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth:**

A 30-minute children's program will be held during WNL. Children's choir will sing on Christmas Eve and at Easter Sunrise Service.

Connect3 will be held during the former Junior Church time, with the theme "All about water."

**Kay Peebles, Office Administrator:**

Staff will be social hosts on September 15.

*[continued at right]*

**Grace Marchione, Communications Director:**

Grace projects the website to be up and running by the holidays.

**Stewardship Report (Mark Bruen):**

The Covenant Campaign will kick off on October 20. Stewardship Sunday is November 10, when stewardship cards will be brought forward.

**Board Reports:**

Trustees: (Dan Panachyda)

The ramp area repointing has been completed.

St. John's has passed the inspection by the fire marshal.

Trustees are addressing the issue of a water leak into the assembly hall.

Deacons: (Scott Vanderburg)

Congregational meeting and dinner will be held October 20.

Cleaning out of the refrigerator and closets is planned.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

An iPad will be available for book lending in the library.

Books and flashlights have been shipped to Malawi.

"Trunk or Treat" game night for Halloween is planned for October 24, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

We are looking for help to fill our Trunks with Treats for this family game night. If you are able to donate wrapped candy, please drop it in the donation box in the library. If any person/board/group would like to decorate and/or fill a tabletop "trunk," please contact Kim Sands or any of the educators.

Goodie Boxes for students will be sent out in October. Please forward the name and school/college dorm address of each individual you wish to receive a box to Kay at office@st-johns-ucc.org.

*[continued on next page]*

Elders: (Sally Atkiss)

They will reach out to the Laity Team to discuss additional support for Tom.

Laity Sunday may be moved to November.

Search and Call update: There are three strong candidates. Two will have in-person interviews.

**Council Focus Topic—St. John’s transition after Rev. Addie’s departure:**

Tom will take the lead role, with the support of another bridge pastor, until a senior pastor is hired.

**Current Business—Priority Initiatives**

Bridge Pastor Update (Mark Bruen)

Team members are Bill Leslie (chair), Deb Dayton (exec), Susan Fitzpatrick (Elders), and Kelly Bresadola (Personnel). The search team, along with Pastor Tom and Mark Bruen, met to draft a scope of work. This was shared with Kevin McLemore from the Conference, who identified a potential candidate.

Hire Senior Pastor—Search and Call Process (Sue Fitzpatrick)

See Elders report.

Facilities/Superintendent Position—Personnel (Marge Jewell)

Personnel has worked with Trustees to hire Queenan Cleaning, who began on September 4 and will continue through December during the transition period. Bill Bergey will be accomplishing all tasks not assigned to Queenan.

Communications—Internal and External Update on Task Force (Mark Hogan/Mark Bruen)

Grace Marchione stated the website service is offered through the UCC.

*[continued at right]*

Communications Sessions during Social Hour (Deb Dayton)

A table is set up during Social Hour for the congregation to ask questions.

Outreach Mission beyond St. John’s (Don Atkiss/Mark Bruen)

October First Friday is Chili Cookoff.

November First Friday is Zombie Night.

Sandwich board is out front at all times, providing a positive way to connect with the community about St. John’s and its activities.

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

Grace Marchione designed a postcard to be sent out.

New Business:

Congregational meeting and dinner

See Deacons report.

Old Business:

Building-use procedures update (Mark Bruen)

A yoga/meditation group, “Art of Living,” meets every other Saturday morning in the library. A prequalification class (cost \$300) must be taken to attend their class. It was suggested in their agreement the group make voluntary contributions for use of the building. Sheila (organizer) stated they may be able to host session(s) for church members. If you are interested, contact Mark or Kay.

| FINANCES  |                   |                     |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Summary of August and Year-to-Date Income and Expense | August 2024       | January–August 2024 |
| <b>Income</b>   |                   |                     |
| Current Tithes/Offerings                              | 18,684.53         | 261,020.17          |
| Event Income/Fundraisers                              | 95.00             | 7,652.00            |
| Flowers   | 40.00             | 3,767.00            |
| Interest Income, Savings Accounts                     | 1.59              | 271.87              |
| Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income                     | 0.00              | 164.00              |
| Rental Income   | 0.00              | 19,500.00           |
| Unapplied Cash Payment Income                         | 695.00            | 695.00              |
| Use of Building Income                                | 0.00              | 2,500.00            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                   | <b>19,516.12</b>  | <b>295,570.04</b>   |
| <b>Gross Income</b>                                   | <b>19,516.12</b>  | <b>295,570.04</b>   |
| <b>Expense</b>  |                   |                     |
| Building Operation Expenses                           | 4,566.04          | 46,643.87           |
| Deacons Expenses                                      | 766.32            | 10,136.37           |
| Educators Expenses                                    | 510.68            | 510.68              |
| Elders Expenses                                       | 25.43             | 754.52              |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                                | 54.60             | 842.13              |
| Operating Expenses                                    | 7,339.31          | 53,605.77           |
| Salaries and Benefits                                 | 35,168.16         | 294,552.88          |
| Trustees/Building Expenses                            | 7,209.10          | 21,131.02           |
| Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense                   | 0.00              | 0.00                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                 | <b>55,639.64</b>  | <b>428,177.24</b>   |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>                           | <b>-36,123.52</b> | <b>-132,607.20</b>  |
| <b>Budgeted Transfers From Investments</b>            | <b>14,275.00</b>  | <b>111,559.00</b>   |
| <b>Net Operating Income Plus Transfers</b>            | <b>-21,848.52</b> | <b>-21,048.20</b>   |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                   |                   |                     |
| Artist Series Income—Special                          | 5,750.00          | 38,272.00           |
| Benevolence Offerings                                 | 2,000.00          | 47,455.63           |
| Soup/Cookies Sales                                    | 0.00              | 1,734.00            |
| Special Accounts                                      | 1,109.37          | 127,333.21          |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>                             | <b>8,859.00</b>   | <b>214,794.84</b>   |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                                 |                   |                     |
| Artist Series Fund Expenditures                       | 386.87            | 31,475.61           |
| Benevolence Disbursements                             | 11,117.00         | 59,731.97           |
| Soup Sale Expenditures                                | 0.00              | 1,126.00            |
| Special Fund Expenditures                             | 39,917.90         | 106,777.03          |
| <b>Total Other Expenses</b>                           | <b>51,421.77</b>  | <b>199,110.61</b>   |
| <b>Net Other Income</b>                               | <b>-42,562.77</b> | <b>15,684.23</b>    |
| <b>Net Income</b>                                     | <b>-78,686.29</b> | <b>-116,922.97</b>  |
| <b>Net Income Plus Transfers</b>                      | <b>-64,411.29</b> | <b>-5,363.97</b>    |

## Lizzie's Library News



Happy Fall, St. John's family! Lizzie here, with some library updates.

Again, a HUGE thank you to all who donated books and flashlights for the children of Malawi. They were sent on their voyage on September 5th. The children will be so grateful to finally have a library of their own!

The librarian and I had a busy summer and September, catching up on cataloging our extensive collection of books. And great news! We will be launching our new, upgraded library app, LIBIB, at the end of this month. This will allow you to browse our library's collection by title, author, subject, etc. Users will even be able to sign a book out, or in, as well as put a hold on a title if it's already checked out. We are extremely excited! Stay tuned for more information and details!

This month we look to the autumnal season and its vast color palette, the warmth and coziness of the season, and the feeling of change that it can provide. Some of our featured titles will focus on devotions for fall, change, and, of course, some good old-fashioned thrillers and spooky titles! We are continuously going through our collections and adding new titles each month. Be sure to check out the Recent Additions section, located in the bookcase to the right of the sign-out sheet.

Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or suggestions! The librarian and I can be reached at [library@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:library@st-johns-ucc.org) or by simply finding her on a Sunday morning in the pews! Stop on by the library the next time you're at St. John's and cozy up with a good book!

Happy Reading!  
Lizzie & Sarah



Congratulations to Suzanne and Don Franks on the birth of their grandson Myles Lynn Franks; to Deborah Dayton and Steve Landis on the birth of their granddaughter Sage Evangeline Rauscher; and to Cagla and David Mandewicz on the birth of their daughter Sofia Noelle, granddaughter of Jennifer Gilbert.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Mason Kinsey, son of Brandi and Ryan Kinsey, grandson of Anne and Eric Kinsey, who passed away recently.

### Chancel Flower Donations



October 6 World Communion Sunday  
In memory of loved ones from Doris Latta

In memory of Madeleine Bruen from her son, Mark, and Grace, Ben, and Allison Bruen

October 13

In memory of George Ruth from Chriss Ruth Bodde and family  
In memory of Stewart and Louise Wells from Kathleen Wells and family

### Soup Sale October 20 in Fellowship Hall

Order forms can be found in the Elevator Foyer and the Narthex. Please call Anne Kinsey, 215.470.8456, with any questions.



### Sharing a Joy!

*Rev. Dr. Timothy Carl Ahrens, a son of this congregation, will be retiring after 39 years of ministry with the United Church of Christ on Sunday, October 20, 2024. He will preach his last sermon at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Columbus, Ohio! Tim was baptized at St. John's, ordained into the UCC in our sanctuary in 1985, and has preached from our pulpit numerous times over the years. We, Tim's mother and sister, thought his St. John's friends might want to acknowledge this life milestone by dropping Tim a note (Home: 1236 Churchbell Way, Columbus, OH 43235) or email: tahrens@first-church.org. Thank you.*

*Gratefully, Lorene and Deb Ahrens*

Bring your loose change to church to benefit St. John's Child Sponsorship Project, Change for the Children Offering, Sunday, November 10



# Chancel Flower Ministry



Thank you for being part of this amazing ministry! Many lives have been touched by your efforts!

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the Chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you need will be in this room:

- Plastic & Glass Containers      •St. John’s Address Directory      •Chancel Flower Cards      •Bouquet Wrap
- Rubber Bands                      • Ribbon                              •Address Stickers              •Paper & Writing Utensils

If you cannot make your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone and let me know!

1. Remove the flowers from the brass vases and green liners.
2. Put the flowers into the plastic floral containers located on the shelf, the donated glass containers beneath the rolling cart, or wrap them in the foil on the shelf in the flower room.
3. Be creative! You bring something to this ministry that only YOU can bring. Let that shine!
4. Return the green liners to the brass vases. These belong to the florist.
5. You may separate the flowers into as many bouquets/vases as you wish—just keep in mind that the containers need to last the month.
6. Include a card for each bouquet. You may use rubber bands or ribbon to secure them to the container.
7. Write a personalized letter if you wish!
8. Write in the signup book who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday.

Thank you so much for being part of this life-changing ministry!

Kay Peebles  
Office Administrator

## 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 |                       | 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    | Kay Peebles & Grace Marchione |

|       |                         |       |                        |       |                      |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Jul 7 | Gayle & Bob George      | Aug 6 | Cindy Reese            | Sep 1 | Jen & Matt Harp      |
| 14    | Kay Peebles             | 13    | Lisa Thim              | 8     | Karen & Mark Methlie |
| 21    | Lillian & Dan Panachyda | 20    | Barb & Don Fretz       | 15    | Staff                |
| 28    | Mary Billy              | 27    | 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     | Barb & Robin 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    | Sue & Bill Morris      |

Date: 10/24/2024

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

# Family Game Night & "Trunk or Treat"



*Join the Board of Educators for a  
Halloween-Themed Family Game  
night! All are welcome.*

*Come in Costume, bring some games  
to share and enjoy a fun night of  
gaming with your family and ours.*

- ★ *Beverages will be provided.*
- ★ *Bring a snack to share.*
- ★ *There will be Halloween goodies at  
the tables for all the ghouls & goblins*

*St. John's UCC  
in the Assembly Hall*

**Please RSVP via the sign-up  
sheets in the elevator lobby or  
Narthex OR by contacting the  
church office so we have  
enough tables available.**

500 West Main St.  
Lansdale, PA 19446

215-855-5489  
[office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)







## RECOGNIZING & REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FOR MANDATED REPORTERS

KNOW YOUR ROLE IN PROTECTING CHILDREN



**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12,  
2024, 9AM-12PM**



**ST. JOHN'S UCC  
500 W. MAIN ST.  
LANSDALE, PA**

Join us for this state-approved training course that fulfills requirements for mandated reporters in accordance with Act 31 of 2014 and Act 126 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

- CEUs available upon request.
- PCCD credit approved course.
- Free registration & donations welcome
- Child care available.



Questions? Contact Jessica Carson at [Jessica-Carson@vscmontcopa.org](mailto:Jessica-Carson@vscmontcopa.org)

[www.victimservicescenter.org/events](http://www.victimservicescenter.org/events)



***St. John's 16th Annual Women's Christmas Tea***  
***Saturday, December 7, 2024***  
***10 AM to noon in the Assembly Hall***

*Tea Sandwiches ~ Desserts ~ Variety of Teas ~ Gluten-Free Foods*  
*Christmas Carols accompanied by Sandy Brown*

*Wonderful fellowship and information about Liz's Birthday Closet, a program that provides birthday toolkits to help families celebrate their children's birthday.*

*Donations will be accepted to offset costs and to benefit Liz's Birthday Closet*

*Please contact Janet Morton at [mortfam116@gmail.com](mailto:mortfam116@gmail.com) if you would like to bring a food item to share.*

*Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 20, to Sally Jarinko, text 215.421.6678, call 215.256.8289, or email [sjarinko@comcast.net](mailto:sjarinko@comcast.net). (Space is limited!)*

**ARTICLES DUE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE:  
OCTOBER 13**

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

- ✧ All Saints' Day
- ✧ Veterans Day
- ✧ Stewardship Sunday
- ✧ Thanksgiving

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](mailto:erickinsey46@gmail.com). If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

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PATRON

Up to \$99

Your name will appear in our 4 concert programs and the gala program.

\$100-\$249

The previous giving level benefits plus acknowledgment in The Enlightener, a monthly newsletter from St. John's UCC that reaches hundreds of households.

\$250-\$499

The previous giving level benefits plus acknowledgment in Artist Series electronic newsletters, reaching over 600 email addresses.

\$500-\$999

The previous giving level benefits plus 1 (one) complimentary gala ticket.

\$1000-\$1999

The previous giving level benefits plus 1 (one) complimentary gala ticket, for a total of 2 (two) tickets.

\$2000-\$3499

Your name will be announced as a "bronze level sponsor" at the concert of your choice.

\$3500-\$4999

Your name will be announced as a "silver level sponsor" at two concerts of your choice.

\$5000+

Your name will be announced as a "gold level sponsor" at every concert.

SPONSOR

**All sponsorship tiers include the highest level of Patron benefits.**

**PREFER TO GIVE VIA CHECK OR CASH?**

Mail or drop off your gift at St. John's UCC (500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446) along with the below form completed. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC and indicate Artist Series in the memo line.

**Please print your name as you would like it to appear in our publications.  
Deadline to have your name included in publications is Thursday, October 31.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Artist Series at St. John's**

500 West Main St. info@stjohnsartistseries.org  
Lansdale PA, 19446 215-855-5489

[www.stjohnsartistseries.org](http://www.stjohnsartistseries.org)

Scan the QR code to  
make a gift online!

