

The Disciple

The Good News of St. John soars like an eagle!

St. John's United Church of Christ
Allentown, Pennsylvania

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September 20, 2016

Pastor Karen's
Korner

The musical "Fiddler on the Roof", opens with a song called, "Tradition". The lyrics describe the role of each person in the community—the fathers, the mothers, the sons and daughters, the Rabbi and the matchmaker; even the beggar.

It has been said that anything that has been done three or more times is a tradition. Throughout this year we have been celebrating our 150 years of ministry. Saturday, October 1, at our banquet we will be sharing memories of our lives here as part of St. John's UCC. Some of you will also have stories to tell of Christ UCC and Trinity UCC. **I encourage each of you to think of at least one memory you would be willing to share. Please write it down and give or mail it to me by September 26 so I can compile them for our program on October 1. Please include your memory, the date or timeframe when it happened, and your name.**

There are so many things we do because they are our tradition, like raising our candles high during the singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve, placing a red rose on the altar rail at the birth of a child, lighting candles for those who have died in the past year, having families or groups light the Advent candles, having Rally day, Advent and Lenten breakfasts and programs.

Some of the things we do have come because a pastor or congregation member or committee has made a suggestion to try something new. Some of our more recent traditions are: having a display of items for World Communion Sunday and different breads representing a variety of cultures, and giving a newly baptized person a seashell and a copy of the Sunday "New York Times" with the date of the baptism as remembrances of the symbol for water and the world Christians are called to live in. I am sure you can recall things we do now and think we have always done it that way, but there was a first time for everything.

When a new congregation comes into being the decisions they make about how communion is served, their style of worship, Christmas Eve service, their governance, eventually become their traditions.

Can you name traditions or things we do at St. John's that are meaningful to you? Maybe you can remember when we did an activity for the first time and what the reaction was.

Our founding fathers and mothers handed on the Christian faith and their traditions shaped by Zion Reformed Church and the history of Christianity.

What do we want to pass on to future generations? How will what we do today shape and influence the St. John's of tomorrow? What stories do we tell about our faith, our church and our history that have an impact on our children, grandchildren, our community and the world?

We have come this far by faith; faith in the Living, Still Speaking God – one in three, three in one.

Let us continue as an evolving, living body of Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Karen



October 2–20th Sunday after Pentecost–Lamentations 1: 1-16; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10
October 9–21st Sunday after Pentecost–Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19
October 16–22nd Sunday after Pentecost–Jeremiah 31: 27-34; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5; Luke 18: 1-8
October 23–23rd Sunday after Pentecost–Joel 2: 23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14
October 30–24th Sunday after Pentecost–Isaiah 1: 10-18; Psalm 32: 1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12;
Luke 19: 1-10



- Oct. 1—One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner, doors open at 4:30pm, dinner at 5pm
- Oct. 2—World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 2—Culmination service of our One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Year
- Oct. 9— CROP WALK
- Oct. 16—Anniversary group photos taken after worship
- Oct. 23—Anniversary group photos taken after worship
- Oct. 30—Memorial Sunday
- Oct. 30—Anniversary group photos taken after worship

Looking Ahead

- Nov. 23—Community Thanksgiving Eve service, 7:30pm, St. Paul’s Lutheran
- Nov. 27— Advent Breakfast and program 9:30am

Anniversaries in the coming month are listed on the calendar. But we want to highlight those who are celebrating special wedding anniversaries.



- Russell and Brenda Schuler are celebrating their fifth anniversary on October 10.
- Bruce and Florence DeLong are celebrating their fifty-second wedding anniversary on October 17.
- Jim and Brenda Saylor are celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary on October 26.

Congratulations and may God be with you as you celebrate this and the anniversaries still to come.



Saturday, October 1—One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner, Social Hall, a time to share memories. Doors will open at 4:30pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. You must RSVP by September 25, 2016. See form on the bottom of this page.

Sunday, October 2—World Communion Sunday will include recognition of Zion UCC, Christ UCC and Trinity UCC, and speakers Alan Miller, conference minister for Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Mary Schaller Blaufaus, Team Leader, Global Sharing of Resources UCC and Executive for volunteer ministries of the United Church of Christ. There will be a Fellowship Hour after worship.

October 1—150th Anniversary Dinner RSVP

CULMINATION OF OUR YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS AS A CHURCH!

Please note: Everyone planning to attend the dinner needs to RSVP in one of three ways: Mail this form to the church, fill out the form provided in the Great Hall and place it in the box provided or RSVP by calling the church office at 610-433-0146 no later than *Thursday, September 25*.

NAME _____

Number of people attending _____

Adult Forum

We gather in the Trinity Room each Sunday morning for challenging and informative programs in Adult Forum. After sharing coffee and fellowship at 9:30am, we share joys and concerns. Our program begins at 9:45am.

- Oct. 2**—Our Penn Northeast Conference minister, Rev. Alan Miller, will be with us at our last 150th anniversary celebration. He has agreed to meet with our Adult Forum. We hope to have a good crowd for his visit!
- Oct. 9**—Nancy Kramer-Moyer and Bonnie Falla will do a program on hunger, using Bread for the World resources, including an excellent video. We will even have an opportunity to write to our congressmen on the issue of addressing world hunger.
- Oct. 16**—Geoffrey Brace, former member of St. John's and current member of our neighbor Zion, will tell us about the Jubilee Breakfast feeding program, which is hosted by Zion and was a recipient of a grant from St. John's. St. John's has several volunteers helping to cook/serve the breakfast, which is provided from November–April. Geoff has been the chief cook during the Saturday hosting day.
- Oct. 23**—We will continue the Bart Ehrman video series on the New Testament.
- Oct. 30**—Joshua Brown, Community School Coordinator at Central Elementary School, and Rebecca Bodnar, Principal at Central, will tell us all about how the Community Partners program works. St. John's, as you know, has provided many items as well as volunteers for this important project.

Messages from
the



Photo Opportunities

Attention all committee and board members. Come get your picture taken for our Sesquicentennial anniversary booklet. Joni Brensinger will be taking group shots after worship on the following Sundays – October 16, 23 and 30. Stay tuned for information on which groups she will be photographing on each date.

CROP Walk

Walk or sponsor a walker to end hunger locally and globally. Our youth and anyone who would like to walk can get a signup sheet and materials from Cassidy Bell. The walk is Sunday, October 9. The kickoff is at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, at the corner of Ott and Walnut Streets. Registration is at 1:00pm and the walk begins at 1:30pm. Your contribution provides food, seeds, tools and disaster relief through Church World Service.

World Communion Display

Please bring your items representing various cultures and countries to the church office by 2pm, September 30. You can share dolls, figurines, cloth, baskets and toys. We will also have a variety of breads as a part of the display, which will be served at the Fellowship time after worship. Please put your name on your items so they can be returned to you.

150th Anniversary Guests

The Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Team Leader for Global Sharing of Resources, UCC, and Executive for volunteer ministries will be our guest preacher, Sunday, October 2. The Rev. Alan Miller, PNEC Conference Minister, will be bringing greetings from the conference. Welcome to our guests.

Nametags

Please wear your nametags at worship and fellowship. We have a number of people attending who are new to us and they don't know our names. Also, with guests coming to celebrate our 150th anniversary, it is helpful to them to be able to call you by name. If you need a nametag, please call Sue at the church office.

Memorial Sunday

During worship on Sunday, October 30, we will acknowledge the saints who have passed into God's greater glory in the past year. Those being remembered are: Betty Appel, Robert Morris, Elsie Christman, Verna Teague, Richard Klingborg, Grace Zeky and Lisa Hunsinger. A candle will be lit for each person and the chimes will be rung. Please notify Pastor Karen if any name has been omitted.

Altar Flowers for October

- October 2**—World Wide Communion Sunday
October 9—“In memory of Loved Ones”, given by the Chet Heinze family.
October 16—“In memory of her mother, Betty Slavin”, given by Becky Bronfenbrenner.
October 23—“In honor of all members of St. John's who are shut-ins”, given by Mary Sodaitis.
October 30—“In memory of Michael and Eleanor Duch”, given by Shirley and Jim Bartynski.

We thank all who have graced our altar with flower tributes!

Support “Feed our Sheep”

Care packages for our youth away at college or in the military will soon be sent. Becky Bronfenbrenner will be in the large hall following worship to collect monetary donations in support of this project on October 16 and 23. Your generosity serves as a reminder that St. John's has not forgotten these hardworking young people. This outreach project is often the slender thread that connects the church to our distant –and sometimes homesick – youth. Please contribute.

"GO and DO the Same"

"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Luke 10:17

This is the theme of our stewardship campaign and the essence of what is asked of us.

Each Sunday, starting October 23, there will be an inspiring insert in the bulletin. You will also receive a letter with the covenant/pledge card in the mail. On Sunday, November 13, our covenant cards will be dedicated, pledging our support and willingness to go out and show mercy.

We look forward to sharing this special time with each of you.

Community Bike Works Graduation Picnic

On September 1 St. John's hosted the Bike Works “Earn a Bike” graduation picnic at Waldheim Park. Sixteen St. John's members and friends served the 80 guests, including the young graduates, their families and a few staff members and volunteers. We have been hosting this graduation picnic since 2005.

Community Bike Works (CBW) is a youth development and work ethic program for inner city youth, which St. John's has been supporting through our Benevolence grants since its beginning in 1995. That first year Bike Works served 18 students. CBW served 100 students this summer at their Madison Street location and another 45 students on the east side of Allentown.

Working with adult mentors, the young people learn how to fix a bike of their own, while also learning life skills including perseverance, teamwork, and hard work. The “Junior Earn a Bike” program brings the Earn a Bike model of reading, riding and wrenching to seven- and eight-year-old students. CBW offers a summer “Earn a Book” program, in which students connect with adult mentors for group and independent reading, as well as activities including trips to the library and local bookstore.

Bike Works provides additional opportunities to connect in a safe and nurturing space. Summer afternoons focus on healthy living, including healthy eating and activity. Weekday and Saturday bike rides give students and adults time to ride and connect.

St. John's is proud to support the work of Community Bike Works, including our collection of rubbing alcohol, paper towels, toilet paper, disposable plastic gloves, black markers and dish detergent and rags for greasy bike parts and hands. A large box is available in the large hall for your donations of these items.

*Courage is fear that has
said its prayers!*

Our Ministry with Central Elementary

Our sesquicentennial celebration of St. John's missions, benevolences and educators on Sunday, September 11, was a huge success. We had the opportunity to meet some of our partners in mission, including Joshua Brown and his family. Joshua is the Community School Director at Central Elementary School. He brought his wife, Monique, and three-year-old son, Julian, with him to worship and the following brunch. It was good to get a chance to know him a little bit better and hear him talk, briefly, about Central. He thanked us for all that we do for them. He also sent us an email, afterward, thanking us for the invitation and saying they had a wonderful time.

You will have a chance to hear more about Central and to ask questions during the Adult Forum on October 30, when both Joshua Brown and the school's principal, Rebecca Bodnar, will be joining us.

There are 852 students registered at Central this year, with five full-day kindergartens!! They're taking up every square inch of space available and are bursting at the seams. They are stretching their limited resources to the max, and every staff person is carrying a full load. Central is, definitely, one place in the city where God can use our hands and hearts, our time and resources. We can feel good that we are answering God's call to ministry in this setting.

By the time this issue of "The Disciple" is in your hands, Central's "Open Fun House" will have happened on September 22. We'll be able to tell you about that next month.

Coming up this month on October 27 is the "BOOKTACULAR", a family event of reading books and doing story-related activities. If you are interested in helping, or in observing to see what it's about, please contact Wendy Williams.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO COLLECT BACKPACKS FOR CENTRAL FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

IN OCTOBER, WE WILL BE COLLECTING JACKETS, HATS AND GLOVES.

Please bring your donations to church with you for the children to collect during the offering and put in the big Central Elementary School box, which will be either up in front of the sanctuary or back in the vestibule. Thank you, once again, for your very touching generosity.

Interested in volunteering at Central or simply want to learn more about it?

Contact Wendy Williams at
484-225-6708 or
windwend1@gmail.com.

World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2016

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America established World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 as a global, interdenominational event. In 1971, the name was changed to World Communion Sunday. In general, the special offering taken on this day is designated by churches for mission work in the various denominations. Our congregation dedicates the World Communion Sunday offering to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) in the Basic Benevolence Fund. In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race and national border. Congregations are central to the ability of the United Church of Christ to do mission in local communities, within the United States and internationally. As a congregation works in its own community, it is a representative of the entire denomination and embodies the UCC in that place. And when a congregation determines its giving to Our Church's Wider Mission, there is a direct impact on levels of funding for the Conference and national ministries.

Please show your support with our sister churches throughout the world with a generous gift on World Communion Sunday on October 2. A communion contribution envelope is included for your convenience.

Please Give to the Curtis Fund


This Fund has been helping members of our St. John's family for decades. **It assists members in need when they have financial emergencies.** It is supported by contributions from us, the members of St. John's, and has been an extremely important source of emergency funds for years. Place your donations in the beautifully handmade church in the narthex on Sundays. We need to grow this fund so we can continue to help our family members!

Dan Schantz Tickets in Pews

The Fall Dan Schantz benefit coupons will be coming soon and will be located in the church pew envelope holders. If you need more, please ask Barb Silfies. They will be good to use from September through December 25, when you purchase orders of \$10 or more. No more than two coupons may be used at a time. *Take extras and hand the coupons out to friends.*

August	Year to date				Avg. Worship Attendance for August
	Current	Benevolence	Property	Totals	
2016					44
Members' Giving:	\$45,836	\$18,120	\$0	\$63,956	
Endowment Used:	\$31,104	\$0	\$69,044	\$100,148	
2015					49
Members' Giving:	\$47,374	\$17,806	\$0	\$65,180	
Endowment Used:	\$37,182	\$1,600	\$72,847	\$111,629	

October 2016

<p>Celebrating  <i>An Anniversary This Month</i></p>	<p>Oct. 3–Yvonne & Ken Fillman Oct. 6–Sue & Bob Fegley Oct. 10–Brenda & Russell Schuler Oct. 17–Florence & Bruce DeLong Oct. 26–Brenda and Jim Saylor</p>					<p>1 150th Anniversary Dinner & Sharing Memories Doors-4:30p Dinner-5p</p>	
<p><u>October Birthdays</u></p> <p>7 –Keith Morris Delia Phillips 8 –Jean Heinze Trudi Egan 9 –Cheryl Phillips 13– George Watson 14 –Melissa Repash 15 –Edward Schuler 16 –Alice Miller 19 –Thomas Raub Andrea Schuler Brittany Green 20 –Brenda Saylor 22 –Duquan Stellingburg 25 –Kyle Schuler 27 –Bonnie Falla 28 –Norman Gehman 29 –Sterna Klingborg 30 –Nancy Zeky Howard D. Klopp</p> <p>*Homebound Birthdays</p>	<p>2 9:30a Sunday School / Adult Forum 11:00a World Communion Sunday</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 7:00p Elders</p>	<p>5 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
	<p>9 9:30a Sunday School. / Adult Forum 10:30a Worship</p> <p>CROP WALK</p>	<p>10 4:00p Disciple Deadline</p>	<p>11 7:00p Consistory</p>	<p>12 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
	<p>16 9:30a Sunday School / Adult Forum 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship 12:00n Anniversary Group Photos</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30a Disciple mailing 7:00p Benevolence Committee mtg.</p>	<p>19 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
	<p>23 9:30a S.S./ Ad. Forum 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship & Group Photos</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
	<p>30 9:30a Sunday School / Adult Forum 11:00a Worship 12n Fellowship/Photos</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>7:00p Property & Finance mtg.</p>	<p>7:00p Chancel Choir</p>			

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