

The *Disciple*

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

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

Volume 18, Issue 8

October 31, 2018

from the Interim Ministry Team...

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 3 – Penn Northeast Conference Fall Annual Meeting
Faith UCC, Hazelton

This one day event, on the theme of Transforming, will adopt a budget for 2019, deal with proposed changes to the PNEC Constitution and Bylaws aligning us with the national church Manual on Ministry, adopt a Mission, Vision and Purpose statement for PNEC, act on progress for the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team (with Penn Southeast) and feature workshops for clergy, lay and youth. St. John's will be represented by Trudi Egan, Reverend Rick Guhl, Reverend Allan and Nancy Kramer-Moyer and Julian Pyle.

Sunday, November 4 – 11:00am -The Gift of Leadership

Wednesday, November 7 – St. John's will host the Allentown AMC (UCC Clergy)
luncheon and discussion.

Saturday, November 10 – 9:00am to 4:30pm - Vitality Workshop on Stewardship and Structure with Reverend Mike Piazza at Jordan UCC, Allentown. Please let Reverend Rick Guhl know if you plan to attend.

Sunday, November 11 – 11:00am – Moravian Love Feast service and
Dedication of Pledges

Wednesday, November 14 – Jubilee Breakfast Committee, 6 pm at Zion UCC, Allentown
We have committed ourselves to work in partnership with Zion UCC in this program of feeding the hungry.

Thursday, November 15 – Transformation Team meeting with Reverend Jameson Baxter. We will meet monthly with Jameson, who will serve as our as we reflect on and develop strategies to help our church thrive.

Sunday, November 18 – 11:00am - Reverend Wally Fritsch of Jordan UCC will share with us in worship the story of the Family Promise program of caring for homeless families. Family Promise recently opened a day center to support families in the program at 1316 Hamilton Street, here in Allentown.

Tuesday, November 27 – Interim Team Meeting – 10:00am

Sunday, December 2 – Advent Breakfast – 9:30am with a program to follow First Sunday of Advent with Lighting of the Advent Wreath and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion – 11:00am.

Sunday, December 9 – 11:00am -- Second Sunday of Advent
with Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sunday, December 16 – 11:00am – Third Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Advent Wreath and our Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 23 – 11:00am – Fourth Sunday of Advent
with Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Monday, December 24 – 7:00pm – Christmas Eve service

Interim Ministry Team

Once a month, your Interim Ministry Team gathers to plan and organize the continuing work of our church. We have set a schedule for preaching and pastoral coverage through the end of this year, and we will be looking at the first three months of 2019 at our October meeting. We are joined in this effort by our Music Minister, Lois Mease, who gives us invaluable advice.

One thing we would like to remind the congregation is that our Hospital Church Code, for both the Lehigh Valley and St. Luke's hospital networks, is 462. Please use this code if ever you're admitted to either of those networks, and please advise the church office about any planned admissions, so that your Team can provide you with pastoral care. At the very least, we can pray with you for all those who will be providing medical care and support.

The Team also asks that you hold all of us – Nancy Adams, Bill Falla, Rick Guhl, Allan Kramer-Moyer and Wendy Williams – in your prayers as we endeavor to lead our church through this time of transition.

Search and Call Team Update, October 27, 2018

Below is an outline of the accomplishments the Search and Call Team have undertaken on behalf of our congregation.

- We completed our church profile and it was signed off by our conference Minister in June. A copy of the profile can be sent to you if you choose. Please email us at stjohnsuccsearchandcall@gmail.com to get your copy emailed to you.
- We placed our classified ad on the UCC website in July. You can see the ad by going to the UCC website and typing classified into the search bar.
- Standardized interview questions were developed, completed and assigned to Team members in July. Below are the main questions we are using for the interviews.
 1. Why are you seeking a new calling now?
 2. What interests you about being the minister at St. John's UCC Allentown?
 3. How do you handle staffing and administrative duties? What is your leadership style?
 4. What are your strengths as a Minister? What parts of the ministry do you struggle with most?
 5. Membership has become a significant concern for most churches, mostly because of decreasing funds. St. John's is blessed that at this point we have funds to sustain us. Our concern is that the money will outlast the congregation. What role will you play in actively attracting new members?
 6. Give us some examples of how you meet the spiritual needs of different generations within the congregation.
 7. How do you connect with the LGBTQ community?
 8. How would you utilize technology to benefit the life of the church?
 9. What do you hope to accomplish through your sermons? Can you accomplish this in one hour?
 - a. What preaching style do you use to succeed?
 - b. How do you measure success?
 10. Our profile indicates we have Christian education for children, youth and adults. What role do you see yourself playing in Christian with each age group?
 11. Music is very important in the life of St. John's. What role would you play in working with our music director, organist and choir?
 12. What would make you feel good about your ministry at St. John's seven years from now.

Search and Call Team Update, October 27, 2018 (continued)

- A mock interview was conducted with a conference minister in July. It was very successful and affirmed that our questions and process were complete.
- Twenty candidates submitted profiles to date.
- Our church profile has been sent to all candidates that submitted a profile.
- Seventeen candidates have been completely reviewed with Search and Call Team.
- Three candidates' profiles are still being reviewed.
- Twelve candidates did not fit our congregation; they are not being considered.
- Four candidates have been interviewed to date. Three interviews took place in person and one through a conference call.
- One candidate is being considered for a visit with the Search and Call Team at a neutral pulpit (not our pulpit and not their pulpit) in the next few weeks.
- Because there are three remaining profiles to review, potentially there will be more interviews at neutral pulpits.

If you have any questions or comments please stop one of us at any time or email us at stjohnsuccsearchandcall@gmail.com. We are excited about the progress our Team has made in our search.

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY BENEVOLENCE GRANTS

At the June Consistory meeting, members approved the recommendation of the Benevolence Committee that the following grants be awarded to:

Central Elementary School for Family Night programs – \$5,000. (Christa Held, Director of the Communities in Schools programs, recently came to St. John's to personally thank St. John's for this grant during a mission moment.)

Lehigh Conference of Churches for support of their Homelessness Prevention program – \$912. Executive Director Jack Felch said in a thank-you letter, "Together we do make a difference for God and for good".

Traci's Learning Center – \$1,000 in support of the Center's summer camp scholarships for inner-city children.

St. John's Community Benevolence Grants are made possible by generous bequests from St. John's members and friends who have gone before us and which our Investment Committee has invested to maximize growth. We are truly blessed to be able to give support to so many worthy ministries in our community!

**We are excited to announce that
St. John's now has an AED
(Automated External Defibrillator)**

A new Zoll AED Plus has been installed in an alarmed cabinet in the front of the sanctuary, to the left of the double doors leading to the back hall. An adult defibrillation pad is stored attached to the defibrillator. A set of pediatric pads is also stored in the cabinet for children under 8 years old or 55 pounds.

On September 30 the following eight people attended a three-hour BLS (Basic Life Support) class and are now certified in adult, child and infant CPR, AED use and choking: Emma Beltran, Lynn Cloak, Marjorie Cloak, Barney Cook, Janet Cook, Nancy Rissell, Nancy Kramer-Moyer and Missy Repash.
Congratulations!

Other CPR/AED certified members include:
Shirley Bartinski; Al Cloak; Alex Cloak; Judy, Abby and Kelly Garrigan;
and Cheryl Phillips (pediatric certification).

What can you do if you are not CPR/AED certified? **Know where the AED is kept.**

If you see someone pass out or find a person down:

1. Yell for anyone available to help.
2. Check for unresponsiveness: shake and shout.
(Jostle the person and yell, "Are you OK?" or something similar.)
3. If the person does not respond, **CALL 911** to activate EMS.
Do not hang up! Follow the 911 operator's instructions.



November 4

24th Sunday after Pentecost – Ruth 1:1-8; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

November 11

25th Sunday after Pentecost – Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 10: 38-44

November 18

26th Sunday after Pentecost – 1 Samuel 1: 4-20; 1 Samuel 2: 1-10; Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8

November 25

Reign of Christ – 2 Samuel 23: 1-7; Psalm 132: 1-12; Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37



November 2018

November 4 – “In memory of Loved Ones”
by Nancy Zeky.

November 11 – “In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saylor, Sr.” by daughter Emma.

November 18 – There are no altar flowers for this day, if you would like to place flowers, please call the church office @ 610-433-0146.

November 25 – “In loving memory of our niece, Cara Anne Anthony” by Doris and Ralph Todd

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

Adult Forums

November 4 – Pastor Nancy Adams will share the latest information on how to have a conversation with loved ones about “Advanced Directives”.

November 11 – Pastor Rick Guhl will do a Bible study with us.

November 18 – Pastor Allan Kramer-Moyer will share a study on a book entitled “*Progressive Christianity*” by theologian Marcus Borg.

November 25 – Clubhouse of Lehigh County is a local community center that offers individuals with mental illness hope and opportunities to achieve their full potential. Chris Stout, the Director of Clubhouse, will tell us all about this unique program.

INVEST IN THE VISION – STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church annual offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking”. Your offerings are directed to the Penn Northeast Conference, Local Church Ministries and the Still Speaking Ministry for these purposes. Watch for the flyers in our November 18 bulletin that tell how, in 2017, the offering supported \$350,000 in awards to twelve churches in the New and Renewing Spiritual Communities program. Plus, the offering made possible the addition of twenty four new faith communities to the UCC. The offering (**your envelope is attached to this issue of the “Disciple”**) will be received on Sunday, November 25. Thank you for considering a gift to Strengthen the Church.

The Prayer Chain has begun, once again.

If you are not receiving the Prayer Chain email and would like to be added to the list, please call the church office or email Wendy Williams at windwend1@gmail.com. If you don't have email, but would like to receive the Prayer Chain, we can send it to you through the U.S. mail. Just notify the church office.

If you have a prayer request or concern, call or text Wendy at 484-225-6708 or email her.

St. John's Prayer Chain

Hello Faithful Pray-ers,

Please pray for healing and strength for Emma Saylor as she faces the recurrence of her cancer.

Please pray for George Yoder, who moved to the Miller Building of Phoebe on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Pray for safety and a good transition. George's phone number is the same. His new address is 1925 Turner Street, Allentown, PA 18104; Apt. A107.

Please pray for healing for Alice Roth as she battles myositis.

Please pray for Anna Mae Schul who is now at home, continuing her rehab from a broken shoulder.

Please pray for Chuck Canning who is in hospice at home.

Please pray for Ken Fillman in his battle with cancer.

Please pray for a living kidney donor for Jim Bartynski, and for courage and hope in this difficult time of waiting.

Please pray for me while I continue to rehab at home from orthopedic foot surgery. I am four weeks into an expected eight weeks of non-weight-bearing on my right foot.

Thank you for your ministry of prayer, for keeping the lines of communication between God and our community of faith open and active.

Peace to each one of you from each one of us on the Interim Pastoral Team.

Wendy



D. T. GRAVER, Cor. Eighth and Linden Sts., Allentown.

Circa 1890. The photographer, D. T. Graver, had an office at the corner of Eighth & Linden Streets.

Feed Our Sheep

Thanks to all of you who gave so generously to the Feed our Sheep program, especially to the Fillman family for providing most of the snacks. We sent 5 boxes this year to the following young members:

Zachary DeLong, Taylor Fillman, Abby Garrigan, Alexis Gillenwater, and Subrina Pyle.

Besides the cookies, chips, popcorn, candy, peanut butter, and mac & cheese, the kids received items such as Band-Aids, lip balm, cocoa, tea, pens, Scotch tape, notepads, toothbrushes, and dental floss. For any free time, they can use the bubbles or playing cards or play dough. As always, we included a dust rag for spills or sticky computer keys. Thanks again for thinking of our young adults. We hope they come visit us during their next trip home.

Central Elementary School

We love the children of Central Elementary School, right here in our downtown neighborhood. It is out of our love that we gave the following items. In October: 7 girls’ winter coats, 7 boys’ winter coats, 5 hats, 4 pairs of gloves, 4 scarves and 9 backpacks. In August and September: 12 school uniforms and 35 backpacks. Individuals have also donated a total of \$415 to date in 2018 for socks and underwear, sneakers, school uniforms and backpacks.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated!

These items are stored in a closet at Central that Christa Held, the Community School Coordinator, calls “the magic closet”. When a child needs something, Christa takes them to the magic closet and lets them choose which backpack or pair of sneakers or winter coat, in their size, they would like. They are always so happy to receive one of these gifts. Then, Christa asks them if they know who gave them that gift. “This came from someone who loves you so much that, even though they don’t know you, they gave this to you.” Our gifts really do mean the world to a child who has very little. Even beyond the gift itself when the worry of not having a backpack for their school supplies or not even having clothes to wear to school is removed, they can focus on learning, socializing and enjoying school. We’re also showing them that the world can be a good place with caring people in it. Given their poverty and all the violence around them, our quiet message of love – Christ’s message of love, is as powerful as it ever was and can transform lives. We are doing ministry in the heart of the city.

In November, we will continue to collect winter coats, hats and mittens. However, we learned that Central has an immediate need for school uniform pants. For the next couple weeks we are collecting monetary contributions for Central to add to their order for school uniform pants.

In December, we will collect tissues and Chapstick.

September	Year to date				Avg. Worship Attendance for Month
	Current	Benevolence	Property	Totals	
<u>2018</u>					54
Member’s Giving:	\$47,491	\$19,326	\$460	\$67,277	
Endowment Used:	\$33,579	\$0	\$70,148	\$103,727	
<u>2017</u>					47
Member’s Giving:	\$47,701	\$18,826	\$85	\$66,612	
Endowment Used:	\$30,399	\$0	\$61,470	\$91,869	

Stewardship..... "What Shall We Bring?"

So much love, talent and gifts are brought to St. John's each Sunday and during the week! Our gifts and giving extend out into the community as we heard from Bonnie Falla and Jeff Rissell on Sunday, October 28. The children enlivened the service by collecting our gifts of non-perishable food items while dressed in their Halloween costumes. Nancy Rissell had suggested this great idea. On October 21 she had shared why she loves to bring her talent of teaching to the children.

November 4 will highlight the gifts of leadership in our congregation as well as how our property and finances are overseen by the consistory.

Finally, on Sunday, November 11, we will culminate our Stewardship intensive campaign with a **Love Feast**, inspired by the Moravian tradition. There will be much music and fellowship and the sharing of homemade Moravian sweet buns and beverages in the sanctuary. Lois Mease is helping us to follow the traditional Moravian worship. It is a celebration of God's love for us and our love for each other, as well as a service of gratitude. Our covenant cards will be collected that day. We are grateful to God for our many gifts and are happy to share our time, talents and dollars as a token of our appreciation.

Love Feast

What is a Love Feast? It's when we get to eat in church!

The Love Feast is a community meal shared in worship. The meal itself is simple, just something to eat and something to drink. While the meal is distributed, the congregation sings hymns that convey the theme for the day. A blessing on the meal is sung, and people eat their food. The time for sharing can be accompanied by a musical selection or by conversation. Afterward, another hymn is sung and the cups and napkins are collected.

The Love Feast originated in the ancient Christian church. It is mentioned in Jude 1:12 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Its use is now most common in the Moravian Church, which renewed the practice in the early 1700s. The Love Feast is not a sacrament nor is it a rite of the church. It is simply a practice or tradition.

The Love Feast is simple. Everybody is included. Everyone shares together as a sign of mutual love and equality. The significance of the Love Feast is in the shared experience of acceptance and community.

On November 11, our Love Feast food will be Moravian Love Feast Buns, baked by Lynn Cloak and friends. For a beverage, you will have your choice of Moravian coffee (which has milk and sugar added), black coffee or hot cocoa.

St John's UCC Interim Ministry Team

Nancy Adams	610-439-1108	nancyadams68@icloud.com
Bill Falla	610-432-8711	bonnie.falla@gmail.com
Rick Guhl	484-707-5838	rickguhl@gmail.com
Allan Kramer-Moyer	484-695-4108	moyer.allan@gmail.com
Wendy Williams	484-225-6708	windwend1@gmail.com
Lois Mease	610-865-0593	<u>loismease@gmail.com</u>
church office	610-433-0146	stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

Schedule for Liturgy/Preaching

November 4	Rick Guhl
November 11	Bill Falla
November 18	Wally Fritsch (Family Promise)
November 25	Allan Kramer-Moyer
December 2	Rick Guhl
December 9	Bill Falla
December 16	Christmas Pageant
December 23	Bill Falla
December 24	Rick Guhl (Christmas Eve)
December 30	Lois Mease

Pastoral Care Coverage / On-Call Schedule

October 21 thru Nov 3	Allan Kramer-Moyer
November 4 thru November 17	Rick Guhl
November 18 thru December 1	Allan Kramer-Moyer
December 2 thru December 15	Rick Guhl
December 16 thru December 22	Allan Kramer-Moyer
December 23 thru January 5, 2019	TBD



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 beautiful handmade church in the Narthex on Sundays. You may also send a check to the church made out to St. John's UCC with "Curtis Fund" on the memo line. We need to grow this fund so we can continue to help our family members!

In search of.....

.....folks willing to host the "fellowship time" after a Sunday service. You do not need to purchase the refreshments. Speak with Lynn Cloak if you have any questions about hosting. Please use the appropriate sign-up sheet in the Great Hall if you are willing to help.

.....folks willing to sponsor the worship bulletin or altar flowers. Honor someone or remember loved ones with a bulletin or flowers. The bulletin cost is \$15 and the flowers cost \$35. Your sponsorship will help defray their annual costs!!! Please see Bruce DeLong or Jeff Rissell or call the church office if you would like to be a sponsor .

St. John's year-round ministries and their needs

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

Especially needed items right now are macaroni and cheese, canned corn, canned green beans and soup. Other items accepted include boxed cereal, canned tuna fish, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, Jell-o, pudding, any kind of canned or dried beans (baked, white, kidney, garbanzo, etc.) and pasta. **Monetary donations** are also welcome. Your monetary donations enable the food bank to purchase food from the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Pathways

Toiletries and personal care items like shampoo, conditioners, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, disposable razors, etc. are needed. Sample sizes and the types you find in hotels and motels are fine.

Bike Works

Bike Works needs rubbing alcohol, black markers, disposable plastic gloves, toilet paper, paper towels and dish detergent and rags for greasy bike parts and hands. If you have anything you can tear into rags, they always need rags for greasy bike parts and hands. Thank you.

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Turning Point is a safe place where victims of abuse and their children can find refuge. They provide services to nearly 4,000 people a year through programs and services such as: a 24-hour helpline, Safe House, counseling, court advocacy, support groups, prevention education, medical advocacy and more. St. John's is collecting new wash cloths, towels, twin bed sets and gift cards for CVS, Rite Aid, Walmart, Kmart and Giant.

Labels and Box Tops for Education

Don't forget to bring in those labels and box tops for education to be given directly to Central Elementary School to help them raise needed funds. You may bring in any and all types of "education" labels you see on products such as General Mills, Kleenex, Ziplock products and Pepperidge Farm. Collection boxes for the education labels can be found in the Great Hall, in the hallway by the door to the back parking lot and in the church office. Put your donations in one of the boxes the next time you are at the church. If you would like to help at the Food Bank, talk to Nancy Kramer-Moyer.

November 2018



Nov. 7 - Edward Gildea & Todd Saylor
 Nov. 8 - Megan & Rob Van Ingen

 <p>4 - Vanessa Sperlbaum 5 - Sarah E. Collier 6 - Cyrah Morris 7 - Joseph Hein 8 - Byron D. Cook 10 - Jim Bronfenbrenner 10 - Piper Van Ingen 17 - Noelle Schuler 23 - Jay Mosebach 24 - Damian Heinze 25 - Daniel Collier 27 - Susan Steinberg 30 - Barbara Maursky</p>						1	2	3	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	11:00am Worship 12 noon Fellowship		7:00pm Elders						
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
	11:00am Worship Love Feast 12 noon Fellowship		7:00pm Consistory						
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
11:00am Worship 12 noon Fellowship		7:00pm Benevolence							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
11:00am Worship 12 noon Fellowship									

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