

The Disciple

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

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

Volume 19, Issue 4

April 23, 2019

We have a new pastor!

On Sunday, April 7, **Reverend Emily Ann Garcia Livingston** led our worship service and preached her trial sermon. Immediately following the service, ballots were cast by the St. John's members present. The results were "YES" and Pastor Emily accepted her call. Her first official day at St. John's will be Sunday, June 9.

From the Interim Ministry

The Interim Ministry Team has laid out a schedule up until Pastor Emily's anticipated arrival. We have a few special things planned in the meantime, which we hope you will find uplifting. We need to organize a number of things in preparation for Pastor Emily's arrival, as we want to make the transition as smooth as possible. Hopefully, the Interim Ministry Team will be able to meet with her in advance to let her know what we have been doing. We especially want to discuss with her the Vitality workshops and the GIFT team, and how we can support her as she assumes the role as our pastor.

Those who have served in local churches and chaplaincy programs, know how demanding the first year can be, with having to get to know the congregation, learning to interact with the leadership, organizing and leading worship and attending to all the regularly scheduled programs. So we ask that you pray for Pastor Emily and for St. John's as we make this tremendous step into the future together.

Mother's Day Worship - May 12

For Mother's Day, we will celebrate all the volunteer hours members have given in service of our church and of our community. If you haven't already returned your "Let Your Light Shine" record of volunteer hours by then, please do so. And while we will celebrate all these volunteer hours, there will be a visual display of the various settings in which this work is done. Reverend Rick will preach on "The Mothering Images of God".

Youth Sunday Worship - May 19

The youth of St. John's will lead us in worship. During worship we will recognize and thank our Sunday School teachers of our children, youth and adults. We will also award a promotional Bible to Jacob Pyle for moving from third grade to fourth grade. We will also acknowledge anyone graduating from high school or college. Please notify the office at 610-433-0146 with the names of family members who are graduating so we might celebrate their achievements.

Summer Worship Hour

During the summer, beginning on Sunday, June 2, through Labor Day weekend, we will worship at the earlier time of 10am. Please make note of this in your calendars.

Pentecost Sunday - June 9

What does it mean for us today that Peter and the disciples preached to a massed crowd on this day, seven weeks after Easter? By tradition, Pentecost has been celebrated as the birth of the church. During the Pentecost season, we will explore what it means to be a faithful community of Christ in our world.

Don't forget, this will be Pastor Emily's first official Sunday at St. John's.

Consistory News

Highlights from the meeting on April 9

1. Celebrated the election of our new pastor,
Reverend Emily Ann Garcia Livingston;
2. Thanked the Search Committee, led by Todd Saylor, for their work and for the Meet and Greet on April 6;
3. Thanked Lynn Cloak and her team for the Easter candy fundraiser, the proceeds from which will go to upgrading our church sign;
4. Noted that the Benevolence Committee has received two grant requests, which they will evaluate and make recommendations to Consistory;
5. Noted that our church secretary, Sue Lyons, will be retiring on May 17, and the Interim Ministry Team will take her out to lunch;
6. The Personnel Committee will be searching, in consultation with Pastor Emily, for an Administrative Assistant to manage the office;
7. The Audio-Visual Task Force has one bid for upgrading our system, and would like to get others, but other companies are asking for significant down payments before they will even submit a proposal. Jim Bronfenbrenner is pursuing another avenue;
8. The Stewardship Committee is collecting information for our improved database. We want to have accurate addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for all members and guests so that we can more effectively communicate with everyone. Information will be kept confidential in our office. Please let us know your information, if you haven't already done so.

Reverend Rick

as of 3/31/19	March				Avg. Worship Attendance for February
	Current	Benevolence	Property	Totals	
2019					55 on Sundays
Member's Giving:	\$19,673	\$6,510	\$140	\$23,322	
Endowment Used:	\$4,457	\$0	\$23,365	\$27,822	
2018					65 on Sundays
Member's Giving:	\$16,741	\$6,340	\$185	\$23,266	incl. 84 – Palm Sunday
Endowment Used:	\$10,104	\$0	\$23,576	\$33,680	

May Adult Forum Schedule

May 5 - We will view episode 2 of a DVD on Buddhism
(in response to the Adult Forum's request to understand
more about other world religions)

May 12 - We will view episode 3 of the DVD on Buddhism

May 19 - This is our last Adult Forum until Fall. It is our annual
"brainstorming" session when we think of ideas for programs
next fall, winter, and spring. We really need your help for this.
Please come and share ideas with us!

Folks begin gathering at **9:30am** every Sunday for **Adult Forum**. After some
fellowship... joys and concerns... the program begins at **9:45am**. The program
ends between 10:30 and 10:45am, in time for worship at 11:00am. Please join us!

Church Picnic

Join us on **Sunday, June 9**, at Bucky Boyle Park, off Front Street, at
12noon. Hot dogs and condiments will be supplied. Please bring a
salad, casserole or dessert to share. There will be plenty to eat, so
don't hesitate to invite friends to join us. This is an excellent
opportunity to talk with Pastor Emily in a relaxed setting.



May 5

3rd Sunday of Easter – Acts 9:1-6, 7-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 12

4th Sunday of Easter – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19

5th Sunday of Easter – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26

6th Sunday of Easter – Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22:1-22:5; John 14:23-29



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

For the season of Lent you have been noticing, and hopefully recording, your volunteer hours to both the church and the community. In other words, **“Shining Your Light... the light of Christ reflected through us!”**

On May 12, Mother’s Day, we will be celebrating, in addition to our mothers, a sampling of these activities in worship via a power point and narrative. It will be an uplifting time of celebrating God’s gifts given to and through us!

Starting April 28, **Stewardship of the Earth** will be our focus thru the summer. Look for weekly reminders in the bulletin and elsewhere as to how we can be good stewards of the earth!



Central Elementary School

Greetings from Central Elementary! I hope this finds you enjoying our long-awaited Spring. As the days get longer, our calendars fill and we begin to think of summer. Here at Central, we are planning for our **Community Block Party on Friday, June 7**. This event only happens because of the collaboration among the school, community agencies, business owners and our partners. We have been blessed again in so many ways and humbly come to ask for your engagement to make this event spectacular.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of Central Elementary, our students and the downtown community!

Sincerely,

Christa

Christa Held
Community School Coordinator

See next page for fundraiser info

Do you have time to donate to the Block Party?

Set-up: 1 to 3pm

Event: 3 to 6pm

Tear-down: 6 to 7pm

If you are willing/able to help, please contact Wendy Williams prior to May 10 so she can get your name(s) to Central in time for them to plan appropriately.

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

Do you want to make a financial contribution?

Make your check payable to **“St. John’s”** and mark it for **Block Party**.

Fundraisers for Central Elementary



Queen City BBQ
27 N. 7th Street, Allentown
May 8, from 4pm to 7pm



Udder Bar
1852 W. Allen Street, Allentown
24 flavors of hand-dipped, soft serve and non-dairy ice cream
May 23 and June 23, from 5pm to 9pm



Pastor Emily was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by this bulletin board when she and her husband, Reverend Ed, arrived at the church on April 7. Thanks to Nancy Rissell and her artistic talent for keeping this board updated with hand-written messages and highlights of the life at St. John's.





VBS

Vacation Bible School

Save the dates

Monday, **July 8**, through Friday, **July 12**

5pm - Light supper 5:30 to 7:30pm - Program

Watch for program details and registration opportunities.

Preaching

May 5 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Reverend Bill Falla

May 12 - Mother's Day

Reverend Rick Guhl

May 19 - Youth Sunday

Youth

May 26 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Reverend Bill Falla

Pastoral Care

April 28 thru May 11

Reverend Allan Kramer-Moyer

May 12 thru May 19

Reverend Rick Guhl

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

loismease@gmail.com

church office

610-433-0146

stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

Family Promise in Need of Volunteers

Family Promise is a local program designed to serve children and families experiencing homelessness. There are currently fourteen host congregations in the Lehigh Valley, including five UCC congregations, that take turns providing overnight lodging, meals and other care services. There are currently four families with a total of fourteen persons being cared for in this program.

While the families sleep in one of the host churches at night, they go off to work, school, etc. during the day. On weekends, they are housed at a location near 14th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown. This is where volunteers are needed to staff the facility, for a 3-hour shift between 9am and 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. **If you are interested in volunteering to staff the facility for a 3-hour shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please contact Reverend Allan Kramer-Moyer at St. John's or Pastor Wally Frisch at 484-330-6061, or check the website at fplehighvalley.org.**



May 5 - "In memory of Loved Ones" by Nancy Zeky.

May 12 - "In memory of Chet Heinze Jr.'s birthday" by the Heinze family.

May 19 - Available – please call the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers.

May 26 - Available – please call the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers.

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

**Mother's Day, May 12 Offering
to benefit Phoebe Ministries**

The name *Phoebe* is of Greek origin, meaning "shining one", and that is what you could consider the Phoebe Ministry to be, a shining one in our community. Founded in 1903 and affiliated with the United Church of Christ, Phoebe Ministries has a rich history of improving the lives of older adults. As a not-for-profit organization, they are focused on creating a caring community for all their residents, which many of our beloved members are.

Phoebe Ministries is guided by its mission to provide compassionate care to the residents of its communities, regardless of their ability to pay. Over 40 percent of the nursing home residents and a smaller percentage in other living situations rely on Phoebe's promise of charitable care. Last year, Phoebe provided more than \$15 million in charitable care to its residents. The elderly and the poor – those often forgotten in our society – are at the heart of their mission and ministry.

This Mother's Day please help Phoebe continue to shine in our community by giving generously.

Thank you

Stacey Clifton, Benevolence Committee

Turning Point

In the last eight months, St. John's has donated needed items with a total estimated value of approximately \$616 to Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. We can be proud of these contributions, along with all the other members' donations to other year-round missions. **Thank You** to all who continue to donate to these worthy missions.

AMIGOS DE GUATEMALA

The young children of our Sunday School donated a total of \$50 to Amigos de Guatemala during Lent.

THANK YOU to those young folks... and their parents'/grandparents' 😊.

Also, 18 folks from St. John's attended the Amigos de Guatemala fundraiser dinner at Jordan UCC on April 6.

Thanks to St. John's members for being such a benevolent family.

Community Bike Works featured in the Morning Call...

On Sunday, April 14, 2019, the Morning Call reported that Community Bike Works (CBW) "builds bikes and character", a quote from Erick Marfil, a former *Earn a Bike* student who is now on the staff. Erick stated that he came for a bike, but then "stayed for the support and the people".

In spring CBW provides programs in "recreational riding, road rides and track." This year mountain bike riding is being added.

Through weekly meetings with the city of Allentown, the Youth Leadership team is learning about city planning, including affordable housing. Students from Cedar Crest mentor CBW students in reading, doing homework and playing word games. Students can *Earn a Book* through this program.

CBW is most known for its original program: *Earn a Bike*. Added later, the *Junior Earn a Bike* program gives the same opportunity to 7- and 8-year-olds as they learn "reading, writing and wrenching" and social and emotional tools.

On May 9, the nonprofit will hold a fundraiser and celebration of a milestone — 5,000 children will have gone through its "Earn a Bike" program since the group started in 1994. Congratulations, CBW!

Bike works will hit a milestone this spring.

5,000 students have participated in *Earn a Bike* and *Junior Earn a Bike*!

You may want to join in the celebration at the East Allentown bike shop (614 S. Carlisle St., Allentown) on Thursday, May 9, from 5 to 7pm. There will be tours and snacks, and students will showcase their talents on and off their bikes. The students can't wait to see you! To get your tickets, email:

kim@communitybikeworks.org

Thank you for your support of youth bike mentoring.



Anna Mae Messinger Schul

Anna Mae was born at home on Donald St., South Allentown, August 11, 1933. Her brother Kenneth was born 7 years later. Her grandparents lovingly raised her in the home where she was born. She attended Roosevelt School and then Central. Her family was active in the Lutheran Church. She enjoyed coloring and playing dress-up with girlfriends with whom she is still close. When she was sixteen, she stopped school and chose to work with her aunt in a factory.

She had a blind date with the brother of a girlfriend, Eugene Schul, who later became her husband on April 22, 1953. He had been drafted but not yet deployed to Japan. They married in Salem Bible Fellowship Church where his family was active and Anna Mae became active there as well, eventually running the kitchen of the church until it was sold to a Hispanic congregation.

When Eugene returned from overseas, they purchased a rundown property on Buttonwood Street and together they renovated it. Eventually they purchased two adjacent lots, renovating another home, in which her daughter and husband now live, developed a garden, constructed stone walls and built a pool! This was while Eugene worked as an electrician, taught guitar and played in a band called The Twilighters.

Anna Mae returned to work for a caterer after her two children, Pam and Douglas, were in school. Family has always been important and all her family lives close by. Pam has three children: Kerri, Katie and Keith, and four grandchildren. Douglas is married to Susanne and has a step-daughter Lindsay. Sadly, Eugene died June 14, 2014, of heart disease after 62 years of marriage. Anna Mae sold their home to her granddaughter but lives in a portion of it, which is referred to as her own little suite! Two of her great-grandchildren, Rhiannon and Caeden, live there and Ravana lives nearby.

Anna Mae likes going to and having yard sales, and baking, and continues to love coloring books. She is a wonderful mother, friend and “Nana”. Sophie, the family dog, has become her best friend and is always at her side.

She shared two philosophies of life: “Don’t judge people as you never know what may happen in your family” and “Always live within your budget”.

We are very grateful to Priscilla Bowersox, friend and neighbor to Anna Mae, for bringing her to St. John’s last year. She has become a beloved member!

Code RED

Keeping citizens informed.

Mary Ellen Shiels, Public Health Preparedness Manager for Allentown, spoke in Adult Forum on February 17. She encouraged everyone in Lehigh County to register for Code RED alerts. The following information was included in the presentation and/or a brochure distributed during the presentation.

- **Code RED** is an emergency notification system used in Lehigh County to inform citizens of emergency situations such as evacuations, shelter in place, Amber Alerts, severe weather, active shooter and other disaster responses.
- Messages will help keep you informed and prepared for emergencies in your area to help keep you safe.
- Alerts are only sent to the exact area necessary.
- If you receive a **Code RED** alert:
 1. Listen to/read the entire message.
 2. You can repeat a phone message by pressing any number.
 3. Do not call 911 for additional information unless directed to do so, or you need immediate help.
- **Code RED** is a free service offered by Lehigh County and the Northeast Pennsylvania Counter Terrorism Task Force.
- **You must register** to receive alerts and select how you would like to receive them, via phone, text and/or email.
- **To receive Code RED alerts: register at <<http://ema.lehighcounty.org>>**
- A Code RED message will have the following caller ID:
 - Emergencies: 866-419-500
 - Non-emergencies: 866-969-4636
- A free **Code RED** app is available for Android and iPhone devices. The advantage of the app is that it will provide alerts based on your geo-location as you travel about other **Code RED** communities. The app can be downloaded through Google Play or the App Store.



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 Trudi Egan if you have any questions about hosting or 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 expense to the church! 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 boxed cereal, pasta, canned green beans and canned corn. Other items accepted include: tuna fish, jelly, macaroni and cheese, canned baked beans, canned fruit, peanut butter, Jell-o, pudding and any kind of canned or dried beans (baked, white, kidney, garbanzo, etc.). **Monetary donations** are also welcome. Your monetary donations enable the food bank to purchase food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. If you would like to help at the Food Bank, talk to Nancy Kramer-Moyer.

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.

May 2019



- 1 Christopher Gutt
Olivia Gutt
- 4 Shinea Pyle
Subrina Pyle
- 5 Alex Cloak
- 8 Karline Mosebach
- 13 Shirley Bartynski
- 14 Abigail Garrigan
- 15 Kenneth Fillman
- 16 Preston McLaughlin
- 20 Lynn Cloak
- 23 Charity Hein
Hawthorne Rissell
- 25 Sonya Middleton
- 26 Brenda Schuler



- 21 - Carrie & David Heinze
- 21 - Allison & Ricky Hausman
- 26 - Doris & Ralph Todd
- 27 - Becky & Jim Bronfenbrenner

				1 7pm Choir	2	3	4
5 9:30am Chapel - Sunday School 11am Worship 12noon Fellowship	6	7 7pm Elders	8 7pm Choir	9	10	11	
12 9:30am Chapel - Sunday School 11am Worship 12noon Fellowship	13	14 7pm Consistory	15 7pm Choir	16	17	18	
19 9:30am Chapel - Sunday School 11am Worship 12noon Fellowship Youth-led worship	20 Youth Sunday, Promotion / Graduation, Teacher Recognition	21 7pm Benevolence Committee	22 7pm Choir	23	24	25	
26 9:30am Chapel - Sunday School 11am Worship 12noon Fellowship	27	28	29	30	31		

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