

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 20 Issue 6

September 28, 2020

From the Pastor's keyboard

Grace and Peace St. John's,

I cannot believe that we are entering October, 2020. Where did the month of September go?? We have received the equipment needed to livestream our services, so I will be working with Steve Henderson to see when we can begin. There are a few tests we need to conduct first, as we transition into livestreaming. My hope is that we can begin offering this format at some point in October. I will keep you posted with our progress in that area. There is also building maintenance work taking place on the roof as well as painting the interior of the sanctuary. Depending on when all of the work is completed, we may be able to offer in-person worship again this fall, but we need to see if it will be safe to do so. If this determination is made about resuming in-person worship, I will let you know.

While this is "good" news, I am aware that outside of the life of the church, we are also facing several stressful situations. Many parents are struggling with managing their households, while trying to work (whether it is remote/virtual work or they are physically going into their places of work) and balancing their children's fully remote learning or hybrid/remote school

Schedules. Children are trying to balance new ways of learning while some are home alone during the school day as parents work outside of the home or they are transported from place to place daily because they are too young to stay home alone and they are staying with various caring neighbors/friends/family who are all chipping in to help provide childcare. Some school teachers are having to expose themselves to many different students on a daily basis while trying to adapt to models of teaching that are challenging in a remote/virtual environment. Health care providers are looking for the signs of a surge or the possible complications that the regular flu season may bring to the COVID pandemic. And the presidential election is less than 35 days away with the intensity of negativity from various political groups/pundits and politicians growing daily. Lord help us and help this nation.

Regardless of where you land on the political spectrum, I hope that every person who is eligible to vote plans to vote on November 3. Reach out to your friends and family to make sure that they have the information they need to vote. If they are not registered, they can go to the following website to get information on registering; they can find the location of their polling place; they can apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot; and they can track the status of their ballot once they submit a mail-in or absentee ballot at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. You can also confirm your registration status at this address. If you need a ride to your polling location and cannot find anyone who can assist you with this, please contact the church office by November 2. I will arrange for you to have transport to your polling location on Election Day.

Please be wary of alternative websites that may not be legitimate government sources. The forenamed website is a valid site for voting information for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also, be wary of any emails, text messages or phone calls you may receive regarding your voter registration status or changes to your polling location. If you have any questions about your status, or your polling location, or you simply prefer to speak with a person, you may contact the following if you reside in Lehigh County: The Board of Elections, 17 S. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18101, 610-782-3194.

We are still living in uncertain times and many of us have experienced a great deal of loss. Many of us are tired and weary and much of the network news depicts violence and unrest. By the time the next edition of the *Disciple* is distributed, the election will be upon us. I ask all of you to pray for this country daily as we approach the election and continue to pray after. I believe that this country will continue to experience unrest, even after the election is held and the winner is finally confirmed.

We must remember during these times that God is Sovereign and still in control. We must seek God's face for forgiveness; for guidance; for strength and for wisdom. God is doing something new in this land and is calling us to adapt, to be steadfast in our commitments, and to be kind and compassionate with one another and our neighbors. This world is fractured and hurting and needs change agents like YOU to demonstrate patience, hope, and resilience as faithful ambassadors of Christ. Together, we are the body of Christ and together, we will get through this.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Emily

PNEC Information/Training

**Call to attend our Penn Northeast Conference Fall Meeting
Saturday, November 7, 2020**

We will gather at 9:00 am.

Our Meeting will be a Virtual Zoom Meeting and run from 9 am to 2:30 pm.

The Meeting's Theme is ***Moving Forward***

Scripture: Isaiah 43:19

Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand new.

It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is!

I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

The meeting will begin with the **Celebration of Installation of our Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates**. The Service will include the UCC Conference Ministers from the other five Conferences in the Middle Atlantic Region with special music.

The Installation will finish approximately at 10:15 am and the Business portion will begin at 10:30 am.

Business Items will include:

- Vote on the 2021 Conference Budget
- State of the Conference Address
- Vote on a slate of Nominees for Conference delegates for General Synod
- Recognition of Committee and Board members and the Moderator who are completing their terms
- Recognition of Pastors' Anniversaries of their Ordination, New Pastors, & a Time of Remembrance
- Recognitions of Church's Gifts to OCWM and Five for Five

Hope you can virtually join us! -- Doug Taylor, Moderator

UCC Climate Ambassador Training for PA - Free Zoom format Workshop

Hello from the Penn Central Creation Justice Ministry Team, we would like to invite you this FREE Zoom format workshop which is a collaboration with UCC Environmental Ministries and Blessed Tomorrow with the goal of encouraging and empowering people of faith to engage in creation care and creation justice.

UCC Climate Ambassador Training for PA
Saturday, October 3 from 11:30 am to 4 pm
Zoom format - includes a lunch break and stretch breaks

With the more severe wildfires and hurricanes that the world is experiencing now, the time for faith-rooted and hope-filled climate action is here. To assist churches across Pennsylvania to answer this call, the United Church of Christ Environmental Ministries has partnered with Blessed Tomorrow to train clergy and laity who want to join with others to act for climate solutions as a matter of faith. This free, four-hour training will equip participants to go back to their faith communities with the tools and motivation needed to give presentations and develop concrete plans of action that actualize hope.

We would love to have some folks from the York Association Churches take part in this training. Perfect for inspiring / empowering our many York Association folk who read Jim Antal's "Climate Church Climate World" and who want to take further steps.

You must register for the training. If interested, contact the church office.

As part of the training, everyone who registers will be able to receive a free copy of *Cathedral on Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis* from the Reverend Brooks Berndt, the UCC Minister for Environmental Justice.

The day includes learning and engaging on:

- Faith and Climate
- Solutions and Benefits
- Advocacy and Engagement
- Next Steps and Resources

Both the Reverend Dr. Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice and Anita Fete Crews, Eco-America/Blessed Tomorrow will be presenting....so this is also an opportunity to meet UCC national staff and folk from Eco-America/Blessed Tomorrow whose goal is to help major denominations Create Climate Literate Clergy and Laity, Demonstrate Visible Climate Leadership and Accelerate Collective Action.

Our Ministry with Central Elementary School

We've been collecting school uniforms, virtually, over the summer, by making donations through our website or sending checks into the church office. We're collecting through the end of August. The cost of a uniform is \$20 and you're welcome to give that amount, or whatever you're able to. The exciting news is that, as of August 31st, we've given \$1,221.85 toward uniforms! That will buy school uniforms for 39 students at Central. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

In September, we will be collecting 750 journal notebooks, 750 individual pencil sharpeners, and 750 packs of index cards. So, to give to the children at Central Elementary please donate through the St. John's website or send a check to the church office. We're learning new ways to do ministry in the heart of the city.

ADULT FORUM RETURNS! (ZOOM— style) on October 25, 2020

The last Sunday of each month will be designated for Adult Forum Bible studies, beginning at 9:45am and ending at 10:30am. Claudia will email a ZOOM invite for these sessions. If you have any questions about logging on to ZOOM, contact Claudia (610-433-0146).

October Bible study will be conducted by Reverend Bill Falla on October 25. We will look at the Book of Ruth to get an Old Testament view of the issue of diversity. BYOB (bring your own Bible)!

We also hope to have an outside speaker every other month, beginning in October. On October 18, Reverend Dr. Bonnie Bates, our PNEC Conference Minister, will visit us via ZOOM to speak about her trip to India in February, 2020. Join us!

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020

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 designated by church for mission work in the various denominations. Our congregation dedicated 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 it's 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 4.

From the Music Director

Are you making music at home? Do the children sing their Sunday School songs? Has your family started a weekly jam session? If so, I hope you'll consider video/audio recording yourselves and posting it on St. John's facebook page. If you're really brave, you can email the recording to me and we'll include it in one of our virtual worship services! I will need publication information (copyright holder and date) and will have to check with our streaming license folks. Send your recording to loismease@gmail.com.

While we can't sing together, it will be possible to play handbells. It would be wonderful to have some music for Christmas, whether we're livestreaming or still recording. The number of players will be limited because of social distancing. If you might be interested, send me an email and I'll get us together.

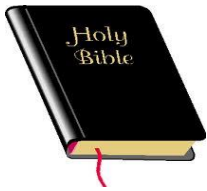
Keep a song in your heart!

Did you know?

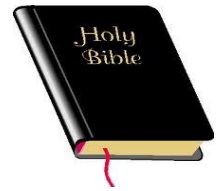
A federal court has extended the time for census counting for an additional month. “The preliminary injunction issued Thursday by U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in the Northern District of California requires the Census Bureau to keep trying to tally the country's residents through Oct. 31.” This is all good for Allentown where – as of Sept 24 2020 – more than 36% of households have yet to respond to the census.

Thank You

Bud Knerr's widow, Felicia and his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren want to thank everyone who sent cards, prayers and notes, and also those who contributed to St. John's in Bud's memory.



Lectionary Readings for October 2020



October 4 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15,
Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

October 18 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45: 1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13);
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22

October 25 –Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18;
Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46

as of 8/31/2020	August			
	Current	Benevolence	Property	Totals
2020				
Members' Giving:	\$48,622	\$16,721	\$890	\$66,233
Endowment Used:	\$57,011	\$0	\$66,816	\$123,827
2019				
Members' Giving:	\$46,046	\$17,147	\$680	\$63,873
Endowment Used:	\$8,726	\$0	\$74,627	\$83,353



St. John's UCC
Short Sleeve T-Shirts



St. John's Bags

St. John's UCC Order Form

	T-shirts \$20	Long Sleeve Shirt \$23	Bags \$12	1 Shirt + 1 Bag \$30	2 T- shirts \$30	2 Long Sleeve Shirts \$40	2 bags \$20
Small							
Medium							
Large							
X-Large							
XX-Large							

Additional sizes may be available upon request. Please see or call Linda Lenhart for additional information. She may be reached via email at llenhart@ptd.net or by phone at (484) 223-9177. You may also contact the church office to place your order at (610) 433-0146.

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

**Please make
payments
payable to St.
John's UCC.**

All proceeds will go to the new **"Sharing the Light"**
sign for the church.

October 2020

							S	M	T	W	T	F	S
 <p>7 - Keith Morris Delia Phillips 8 - Trudi Egan 9 - Cheryl Phillips 14 - Melissa Repash 19 - Thomas Raub 20 - Brenda Saylor 22 - Duquan Stellingburg 27 - Bonnie Falla 29 - Sterna Klingborg 30 - Nancy Zeky</p>	 <p>10/06 – Sue and Bob Fegley 10/17 – Florence and Bruce Delong 10/26 – Brenda and Jim Saylor</p>												
											1	2	3
	4	11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	5	6	7pm Elders	7	8am Prayer Call	8	9	10			
	11	Pastor Appreciation Day 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	12	6:30 pm The Dialogue	13	7pm Consistory	14	8am Prayer Call	15	16	17		
	18	Adult Forum Guest speaker Dr. Bates 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	19	20	21	8am Prayer Call	22	23	24				
	25	Adult Forum 9:45 am 11am Virtual Worship 12pm Fellowship	26	6:30 pm The Dialogue	27	28	8am Prayer Call	29	30	31			

Visit us at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

Like us on Facebook at St John's UCC Allentown