

# The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 21

June 2022

Howdy St John's Congregation,

Wow! I can't believe that our one-year anniversary is this month! Happy Anniversary to us! After a quick reference to *Good Housekeeping* magazine, it would appear that the traditional one-year anniversary gift is paper, because, and I quote, "those plain white sheets symbolize the blank pages on which you'll write the story of your lives together".

When I sat down and thought about the role that paper plays in our lives, I was struck by how frequently those papers are influenced by our lives of faith. When we are born we have a birth certificate, which is more often than not followed by a certificate of Baptism. There are awards and certificates of achievement as we grow larger: *The Presidential Physical Fitness Award*, *Certificate of Confirmation*, perhaps even a *Perfect Attendance Award* for school and church if you are diligent and healthy. Then come diplomas from graduating, and celebrations with family and church family! Then licenses for marriages, and the process restarts with letters, Christmas cards, and finger paintings on the fridge, along with report cards and save the dates!

The early church was very thankful for paper... thanks to the letters that we still read today in our New Testament, the good news of salvation in Jesus was able to reach more people more quickly than ever before. In fact, although Christians didn't invent books, Christian use of these sewn stacks of parchment with protective covers helped popularize their use in the Roman Empire and subsequently the world. There is much to be said for the written word and paper in general, but I feel I must conclude with 2 John 1:12, "I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete". Paper plays an important role in our lives, but nothing comes close to the blessings that I have experienced

spending time with each of you and getting to know you over the past year. Thank you!

-Pastor Becky Sausser

### Consistory Summary

The Consistory meeting on May 11 was held in the Trinity room. The Treasurer's report was approved. Pastor Becky reviewed some highlights from Lent and Holy Week, which were both successful. Pastor Becky Thomas will be preaching Sunday, May 15 at St. John's UCC and Pastor Becky S. will be preaching at Emmanuel. The multi-church picnic will be June 12; see more details in *The Disciple*. Confirmation will be June 5 on Pentecost, and we will have four confirmands: Danny Collier, Sarah Collier, Noah Dopera, and Juel Pyle. It was decided that Pastor Becky will order quality confirmation gowns that will be kept each year. She also reported that she is working on grants for a new roof.

Pastor Becky asked for permission to move forward on becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) and an A2A (accessible 2 all) congregation. A WISE congregation has done the work and made a stand to be WISE toward those struggling with mental illness. A2A congregations have a building that is accessible to all people regardless of mobility or ability, and has gone above and beyond to include people of all abilities and walks of life. A motion was made to move forward on these standings.

Benevolence Committee reported that June 5 is the Strengthen the Church offering for nationals. Fellowship Committee reported that people could sign up to host fellowship time on the bulletin board; contact Trudi Egan if you have questions. Property is awaiting estimates, Stewardship is in the process of drafting a letter, and Christian Education will be meeting on May 12 for the first VBS Planning meeting. Under new business Pam Brubaker asked for permission for a group to come after worship on a Sunday in June with a petition to end solitary confinement in prisons; it was approved. Trudi Egan shared that Brandon Wunder would like to come show his film *Saints of Allentown School District*, at St. John's; this was approved and Trudi will contact him for a date. A motion was made to hold a congregational meeting on June 5 after the Pentecost service to formally vote to call Rev. Rebecca Sausser as the full-time minister at St. John's. The motion was approved! The meeting adjourned and there was a closing prayer.

-Pastor Becky Sausser

## **Our Ministry with Central Elementary School - May**

### **Our Partnership with Central Elementary School**

Central's end-of-the-year Block Party will be held at 11:45am on Wednesday, June 15. That marks the end of the school year and gets summer vacation started with an exciting party. There will be food, music, basket raffles, face painting, games, and a Build Your Own Library section for the students and their families. Any funds raised will go directly to the school to be used for the students.

Volunteers are needed to help at the various tables. Keep your eyes and ears open for information about sign-up sheets.

Donations would also be welcomed, such as individually packaged store-bought food items, gift cards to McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, or other fast food chains or consider putting together a basket to raffle.

Central started a Build Your Own Library table at school this year with donated books and it has become a huge success. They are requesting used children's books to keep that table stocked when school is in and out of session. They're hoping to have many books to choose from at the Block Party, as well. To help Central collect books, The Benevolence Committee is sponsoring a Used Children's Book Drive throughout the summer. So, as you're doing your spring and summer cleaning, see what children's books you can find that you're able to part with and bring them with you to the box at church.

We usually collect school uniforms in June and July, but no one has any in stock yet, so we'll wait until July for those and focus on used books now.

Submitted by Wendy Williams. Any questions? Text or call 484-225-6708 or email me at [windwend1@gmail.com](mailto:windwend1@gmail.com). Thank you.

## June's Special Mission Offering

Pentecost Sunday is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples and the beginning of their ministry. This is why Pentecost is also referred to as the birthday of the Christian Church. It is also the reason that the United Church of Christ has chosen this Sunday for its **Strengthen the Church Offering** which will be our Special Mission Offering for June.

**The Strengthen the Church Offering** reflects the shared commitment of the UCC congregations to help one another strengthen their ministry. Funds administered by the National Office are used for leadership development, new church starts, youth ministry, and local church innovation such as online streaming of worship, just to name a few.

Just as the Holy Spirit empowered those disciples to strengthen the early Church, we hope that the Spirit might move you today to help strengthen the ministry of the UCC. While the focus is on Pentecost, June 5, you may donate anytime in June using your weekly offering envelope, special envelopes found in the Narthex, or the Donate button on our website.

Thank you for considering to help in continuing St. John's support of this vital ministry.

-Bonnie Falla

## Important Dates:

### Worship Information – June Sermons - Mental Health Awareness Month

#### June Sermons

- June 5- Pentecost
  - Reading 1: Genesis 11:1-9
  - Reading 2: Acts 2:1-21
  - Call to worship: Psalm 104
  - This week we hear the astounding events of the first Pentecost when the spirit came down upon the disciples! Our reading is juxtaposed against the story of the Tower of Babel.
- June 12- Trinity Sunday
  - Reading 1: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
  - Reading 2: John 16:12-15
  - Reading 3: Romans 5:1-5
  - Call to worship: Psalm 8
  - Our Hebrew Bible reading shares insight into wisdom, and the gospel reminds us of the promise that Jesus would send us the Holy Spirit as a guide and advocate.
- June 19
  - Reading 1: 1 Kings 19:1-15a
  - Reading 2: Psalm 42
  - Call to worship: Psalm 43
  - In the familiar story of Elijah fleeing from danger, we find a call to remember to listen for the voice of God amidst the stress of life.
- June 26
  - Reading 1: Luke 9:51-62
  - Reading 2: Galatians 5:1, 13-25
  - Call to worship: Psalm 77
  - This week we learn about the cost of following Christ, finding that the true fruits of the spirit are found in walking in Christ's footsteps.

## **Announcements:**

### **Sidewalk Sale!**

The Sidewalk Sale is back this year! The sale will be on September 10 here at St. John's UCC! We are already collecting items, so as you go about your spring cleaning, feel free to drop items off in the "Blue Room" located across from the Trinity room.

If you would prefer to sell your own items, contact Pastor Becky Sausser or Cindy Danenhower to sign up for a table. In addition to items, we will also need volunteers to help with the sale, face painting, and much more! So mark your calendars and organize your garage, because the Sidewalk Sale is coming!

### **Sidewalk Sale**

Let's all give some cheers  
For it's been many years  
Since we opened our closets and trunks  
And gleaned from the piles  
Our useable styles  
Of clothing and tchotchkes and junks  
Just box it and bag it  
We'll price it and tag it  
We're sure it'll sell without fail  
Because once again  
Hallelujah! Amen!  
St. John's plans a Great Sidewalk Sale!  
So try to remember  
The 10th of September  
The day we work hard and have fun  
There's more info coming  
(This place will be humming!)  
And everyone pray for some sun.  
-Becky Bronfenbrenner

## **Graduation News**

If you have information about a member who is graduating, please call the church office or let Becky Bronfenbrenner know. We'd like to honor our graduates with a write-up and share this joy.

## **Live-Streaming**

We believe the technical problem with the streaming sound has been resolved. If anyone still has a problem, please call the church office, and let them know.

## **Hospice Information**

Happy Spring! Think about getting out to help a neighbor in need. Consider volunteering for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice. Make friendly visits to hospice clients, supportive phone calls to grieving families, or sew memory bears. For more information, please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator, at 570-599-5390.

## **Central Elementary**

Central School is having their **end-of-school-year block party on June 15**. They have food, music, games, face painting and other fun things. This year they are also having a **Build Your Own Library** section. The staff has discovered that the students love to get books to keep. If you have any new or gently used books to spare, please bring them to church and we will see that Central receives them to use at their end-of-school-year block party on June 15.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Join us on Saturday, July 9, for Vacation Bible School! This year "hike" to St John's UCC in Allentown for Camp Light Heart! Earn badges, sing songs, make s'mores and much more as we learn about Jesus, the light of the world! Camp begins with dinner, so don't be late!

For safety reasons, registration is required. Call us at 610-433-0146 or email us at [stjohnsucc2@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsucc2@verizon.net)!

# Multi-Church Picnic Celebration!

Emmanuel UCC, Grace UCC, St. John's UCC, and Zion's Liberty Bell UCC are joining together to celebrate and worship at Waldheim Park on June 12!

The main course and drinks will be provided. We ask that everyone please bring a side dish or snack.

**Contact the church office to sign up!**

**When:** June 12 @ 11am

**Where:** Waldheim Park (2400 S. Hall Street, Allentown, PA 18103)

**What to bring:** A covered dish, side, or snack; contact pastor to sign up.

**We are asking that you contact the church office to sign up so we have an accurate head count!**

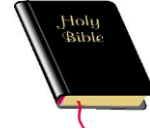


UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST





## Lectionary Readings for June 2022



### **June 5 – Pentecost Sunday –**

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

### **June 12 – Trinity Sunday –**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

### **June 19 – Second Sunday after Pentecost –**

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Isaiah 65:1-9; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

### **June 26 – Third Sunday after Pentecost –**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-25;  
Luke 9:51-62

St. John's Organ and Choir, 1900



# June 2022

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**Celebrating**   
An Anniversary This Month

6/10 – Karen and Michael Dopera

2 – Ralph Todd  
3 – Leigh Lance  
15 – Richard Schmoyer  
19 – Jared Saylor  
21 – Russell Bleiler Jr.  
24 – Alice Roth  
Sarah Shaw  
30 – Mark Strouse

			1 9am Prayer Call	2	3	4
5 11am Worship Pentecost Confirmation 10am service starts 6/12	6 VBS meeting Trinity Room 7pm	7 1pm Elders	8 9am Prayer Call	9	10	11
12 10am Worship 11am Picnic	13	14 7pm Consistory	15 9am Prayer Call	16	17	18
19 10am Worship	20	21	22 9am Prayer Call	23	24	25
26 10am Worship VBS Registration Deadline	27	28	29 9am Prayer Call	30		

June – Named for the Roman goddess Juno, patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Also from the latin word juvenis, “young peoples.”



## **Disciple Deadline is the 15th of every month!**

If you write something for The Disciple, we want to thank you for your hard work and dedication! Articles and stories are due the 15th, if you miss the deadline, don't worry, just let us know!

Thank you!

Visit us at [www.stjohnsuccallentown.org](http://www.stjohnsuccallentown.org)

Like us on Facebook at St. John's UCC Allentown