

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 22

July 2022

Howdy, St John's Congregation,

Thank you! Thank you so much! After the amazing and life-giving Pentecost and Confirmation service followed by the unanimous vote to call me as your minister, thank you is the thing I want to say most! I feel so grateful and so incredibly blessed to be here with all of you in this amazing place doing amazing work together!

Leading up to that service, I was speaking with the Search and Call Committee to coordinate a representative to come take the vote, and someone asked me if I could give them a little description of the journey we took to get here. When I had finished, they said, "it sounds like this has been a place and time of healing for both you and the congregation". I know that I can only speak for myself, but serving as your minister has been such a healing and life-giving time, and I am so incredibly grateful and excited to continue the journey with you as your settled pastor!

Maya Angelou wrote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel". I want you to know that I will never forget the overwhelming joy and love that I felt standing in the hallway listening to the congregation sing *Jesus Loves Me*, and *If You're Happy and You Know It*, as we waited for the votes to be counted. So thank you! Thank you for the honor of serving as your pastor!

-Pastor Becky Sausser

Consistory Summary

The Consistory meeting was held on June 14 in the Trinity Room. Jeff Rissell led devotions. The minutes for the May 11 meeting and the minutes for the June 5 Congregational meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was unavailable at this time and will be approved next meeting. In the minister's report Pastor Becky provided highlights from Pentecost, Confirmation, and the picnic. Celebration of life services will be held on June 22 for Nancy Adams and June 25 for Karline Mosebach; details about the services have been emailed to the congregation and announced in church. On August 22 Pastor Becky will hold a multichurch book study as a part of WISE congregation education; see page 3 in *The Disciple*, for more details. Pastor Becky shared her gratitude and excitement at being called as the full-time settled minister at St John's; the Pastoral Relations Committee will meet next week. October 30 was chosen as the installation date; the service will be at 3pm to allow other local ministers to attend. Pastor Becky shared that she is working on the A2A (Accessible 2 All) audit and that Rev. Wendy Williams and Jeanette Schmoyer have agreed to help with this project. Pastor Becky will be away for NGLI November 10-15.

Benevolence Committee reported that the next major offering will be taken in September. Fellowship Committee reported that we had 110 people at the multichurch picnic. The committee will be providing food for the up and coming memorial services next week. Stewardship Committee sent a letter last month that went out with the newsletter. Building and Property shared that Battle Borne will move in July 1; Jeff and Pastor Becky are finalizing the lease agreement. Battle Borne would like to redo the floors and paint the walls; more information will be shared with the Consistory when it is available. Christian Education Committee reported that everything is ready for the combined VBS with Emmanuel church. VBS is multigenerational and will be held on July 9 from 5-7:30pm. Under new business Pastor Becky shared a list of dates for the fall that will be shared as a take-home sheet with the announcements. The meeting adjourned and closed with prayer.

-Pastor Becky Sausser

Information for James Lawson School

The James Lawson Freedom School believes that, when people make the time to read with children, children get the message that reading is important.

Make the read-aloud experience a great one for you and for your listeners! What is a read-aloud guest? A read-aloud guest is someone who doesn't usually visit or teach in our classrooms; guests from the community who are invited to come and read culturally relevant books to our scholars!

Anyone can be a guest reader! Please share the link with parents, grandparents, friends, business owners, teachers, principals, counselors, district personnel like the superintendent, city or state officials, or other community members.

Please click on the link to view the available slots to sign up. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44AEA72CA1F85-freedom>

August Book Study: Blessed are the Crazy

In the UCC a congregation can become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)! To help us become WISE, Pastor Becky Sausser is having a Summer Book Study on August 22 at 7pm in the Trinity Room at St. John's UCC. We will be reading *Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, & Church* by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund. In this groundbreaking memoir, Sarah "takes the lid off mental illness", as she explores the history of mental illness in her family while addressing the role that church and faith can play in supporting and healing.

To participate, purchase the book and read it for our August 22 meeting. Then come prepared to join the discussion! Snacks will be provided. Contact Pastor Becky Sausser if you have any questions or concerns, or need help ordering the book.

Our Ministry with Central Elementary School - July

Our Partnership with Central Elementary School

We are continuing with our Used Book Drive to help Central keep their Build Your Own Library table overflowing with a variety of books for the children to choose from when school is in *and out* of session. So, as you're doing your 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 will also be collecting donations for school uniforms this month. The cost of a uniform for a girl or boy at Central is \$25. Please give what you are able to, whether that's a uniform, a half or a quarter of a uniform, or three uniforms! All gifts are equal in God's eyes. Every dollar we can add to Central's fund for school uniforms will be gratefully accepted. If you're giving cash or a check, please put it in an envelope and clearly write "Central Uniforms". If you give online, please look for the Central Elementary column.

Please pray that the children of Central Elementary School – and every school – have a safe, fun summer and that every single child has food in his or her belly.

Submitted by Wendy Williams

Important Dates:

Worship Information – July Sermons

July Sermons

- July 3- Independence Weekend
 - Reading 1: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
 - Reading 2: Galatians 6:1-16
 - Call to worship: Psalm 30
 - Title: Count On Me
 - In our gospel, Jesus sends out the 72 disciples; in Galatians we hear about the importance of supporting one another and sharing our burdens.
- July 10
 - Reading 1: Amos 7:7-17
 - Reading 2: Luke 10:25-37
 - Call to worship: Psalm 82

- Title: I Walk the Line
- This week we look at the parable of the good Samaritan paired with a reminder from the prophet Amos to follow the 'plumb line' set by God.
- July 17
 - Reading 1: Luke 10:38-42
 - Reading 2: Colossians 1:15-28
 - Call to worship: Psalm 52
 - Title: Time After Time
 - In our gospel we learn about being in the moment when Jesus visits Mary and Martha. Paul reminds us of Christ's divinity in Colossians.
- July 24
 - Reading 1: Luke 11:1-13
 - Reading 2: Colossians 2:6-19
 - Call to worship: Psalm 85
 - Title: The Lord's Prayer
 - This week we revisit the Lord's Prayer as we learn about the fullness of a life in Christ! Let us contemplate together what it might look like to make it on earth as it is in heaven.
- July 31
 - Reading 1: Luke 12:13-21
 - Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-11
 - Call to worship: Psalm 107
 - Title: Sinners, Saints, & Fools
 - In this week's readings we have a striking parable from Christ in response to a question about money paired with a reminder that we are called to focus on things that are above, because Christ is above.

Pastor Becky's Installation Service

Mark your calendars for **October 30 at 3pm!** Join us for Pastor Becky's Installation service here at St. John's UCC! What is an Installation? The UCC website says, "The service of Installation is a way of saying 'You belong here!'". It is a time to celebrate the calling of the pastor, to remember and honor the responsibilities of the position, and to celebrate the ministry that the congregation and pastor will do together! The service is held in the afternoon to allow other local pastors and

congregation to share in the celebration! So join us October 30 at 3pm in the sanctuary for the service and stay afterward for some light refreshments!

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 Dannenhower 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

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.

Vacation Bible School

Join us on Saturday, July 9, at 5pm, 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!



Lectionary Readings for July 2022



July 3 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost–

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9;
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost –

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost –

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 24 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost –

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138;
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

July 31 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost –

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23;
Palm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

July 2022

 <p>3 – Eric Bronfenbrenner 5 – Thomas Dannenhower 12 – Louise Gutt Judy Krapf Joan Moran 13 – Florence DeLong Allan Kramer-Moyer 27 – Claudia Ewald 28 – Nicholas King 29 – Stacey Roth 31 – Joni Brensinger</p>			7/16 – Eric & Caryn Bronfenbrenner 7/26 – Richard & Joni Brensinger		1	2	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10am Worship Holy Humor Sunday	Office Closed Independence Day	1pm Elders	9am Prayer Call			Vacation Bible School 5-7:30pm
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	10am Worship		7pm Consistory	9am Prayer Call		Youth Group Hike	
	17	18	19	22	21	22	23
10am Worship			9am Prayer Call				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
10am Worship			9am Prayer Call				
31							
10am Worship							

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July – Named to honor Roman dictator Julius Caesar (100BC-44BC). In 46BC, Julius Caesar made one of his greatest contributions to history. With the help of Sosigenes, he developed the Julian calendar, the precursor to the Gregorian calendar that we use today.



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

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