

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 23

August 2022

Howdy, St. John's Congregation,

When it was announced that the Sidewalk Sale would return this year, St John's leapt into action! You all began organizing drawers, cleaning out basements, tackling attics, and even garages! The 'blue room' across from the Trinity room is packed to the gills with treasures and goodies! Inspired by your stamina, I've been organizing and cleaning as well! I love books, and took this opportunity to read up on the subject. Along with works like Mari Kondo's *The Lifechanging Magic of Tidying Up*, and Margareta Magnusson's *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, I found an interesting little book on a subject I knew very little about... Beth Kempton's *Wabi Sabi: Japanese Wisdom for a Perfectly Imperfect Life*.

What is wabi sabi and why was it in my local indie bookshop next to organization-focused books? Wabi sabi is a big philosophy, and a little concept... something that the author describes on the first page, and then spends 200 pages explaining. "Wabi is the feeling generated by recognizing the beauty found in simplicity", and "sabi communicates a deep and tranquil beauty that emerges with the passage of time". Kempton explains that together these words capture a form of philosophy found in Japan that encourages us to see the beauty in imperfection and impermanence as we find the peace of simplicity and mindfulness. She goes on to explain that when we approach wabi sabi with an open heart and an open mind, it teaches us "to be content with less in a way that feels like more".

I would invite you all to contemplate wabi sabi as you read Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus ties together the beauty of nature and the calming presence of the divine with us always. "So do not worry for tomorrow, tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Simplicity, beauty, and grace found in a loving savior! Have a fun and safe August, and mark your calendars for the Sidewalk Sale on September 10! Blessings! -Pastor Becky Sausser

August Special Mission Offering

Our Special Mission Offering for August is the Allentown Area Ecumenical Foodbank. The Ecumenical Foodbank located on North 14 Street in Allentown serves those experiencing hunger and food insecurity. Open 5 days a week they currently are serving around 850 clients. A new feature that has been recently added is that the clients can now shop for their items rather than have them pre-packaged for them.

There are three ways that we can help. First, we can donate money to help run the program. Their current operating budget is \$200,000 that comes mainly from donations and grants. Secondly, you may bring wholesome, non-perishable food items that are not past their expiration date. Thirdly, you can join the other volunteers from St. John's who currently assist at the Foodbank. Monetary donations can be included with your regular offering, the blue pew envelopes, or the Donate Button on our Website. Be sure to designate it for the Foodbank. Foodstuffs can be left in the Foodbank bin in the Narthex. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Kramer-Moyer.

Won't you please find a way to help with this vital ministry. Thank you.

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.

About the Author



Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund's mission is to partner with others to share hope and healing. She is an ordained minister in both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Sarah has served as pastor to churches in Brooklyn, NY, Minneapolis, MN, and New Smyrna Beach, FL. Sarah served as Regional Minister in the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ and as a Vice President for Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. She holds degrees from Trinity University (BA), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), Rutgers University (MSW), and McCormick

Theological Seminary (DMin). Sarah received the Dell Award for Mental Health Education at the 30th General Synod of the UCC.

Sarah currently serves as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice on the national staff of the UCC and as senior pastor of First Congregational UCC of Indianapolis, IN. She volunteers on the national boards of Pathways to Promise, Mental Health America, Bethany Fellows, and Piedmont University. In January of 2022, Sarah joined the US Department of Health and Human Services national Think Tank about faith communities and youth mental health. Sarah is the author of several books about mental health: *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family, and Church* (2014), *Blessed Union: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness and Marriage* (2021), and *Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens* (2022), and a pocket-sized book for youth: *Blessed Youth Survival Guide* (2022). Sarah blogs at www.sarahgriffithlund.com.

Community Bike Works Picnic

We at St. John's will again host a Community Bike Works Picnic/Graduation! Community Bike Works (CBW) is a wonderful program helping young people learn bike skills and earn a bicycle, but also teaches life skills! Each year (except for the past two years due to COVID) we have provided a picnic for the young people, their families and the staff and board members. This year it will be **Thursday, August 25, 5:30 – 7:30pm, at the Mosser Village Family Center, located at 614 S. Carlisle Street, Allentown, PA. We are looking for volunteers to help the day of the picnic! Also, to bake desserts!**

Please contact Nancy Kramer-Moyer if you are interested in helping. You may call the church office or contact Nancy via home phone (610-434-0534) or email: ankm@verizon.net.

It is always a fun time, and you will enjoy seeing their East Allentown facility. It is adjacent to Keck Park so you will enjoy nice surroundings!

Important Dates:

Worship Information – August Sermons

August Sermons

- August 7
 - Reading 1: Luke 12:32-40
 - Reading 2: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
 - Call to worship: Psalm 50
 - Title: Mind & Body
 - In our gospel, Jesus explains that it is important what we give value to, for where our treasure is, there your heart will be also. This lesson is reinforced in Hebrews where we learn about the promise of faith.
- August 14
 - The Rev. Alice Roth will be preaching!
- August 21
 - Reading 1: Jeremiah 1:4-10
 - Reading 2: Luke 13:10-17
 - Call to worship: Psalm 71
 - Title: Always
 - In our Hebrew Bible reading, the prophet Jeremiah is called into ministry; in our gospel Jesus heals a crippled woman and teaches the crowd the importance of compassion.
- August 28
 - Reading 1: Luke 14:1, 7-14
 - Reading 2: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 - Call to worship: Psalm 81
 - Title: Hospitality & Humility
 - While eating at the house of a Pharisee, Jesus teaches about the importance of hospitality, a lesson that is explored further in our epistle lesson. Hospitality has always been an important part of Christianity.

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

Bake Sale at Sidewalk Sale

Calling all bakers! We are asking that anyone who is able please bake something delicious for the Sidewalk Sale on September 10. Baked goods should be wrapped or in a container to help us stay sanitary. Items can be dropped off to the church office the week of the sale, or brought with you the morning of the sale. If you have any questions please call or email the office. Thank you!

St John's UCC Tumbler Fundraiser!



Are you looking for some St John's Swag? Need some back to school gear? Do you enjoy perfectly kept hot or cold beverages? We have great news!

These beautiful 20 oz Tumblers sport one of our most iconic stained glass windows, the church, and our logo! For an additional cost you can personalize it! Lids close for leak protection; every tumbler comes with a straw to be used on cold beverages!

Return your order form with payment to the office by September 25th!

St. John's Tumbler- \$15

St. John's Tumbler with name- \$20

All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the Curtis Fund!

Name of person ordering: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Number of Regular St John's Tumblers (\$15): _____

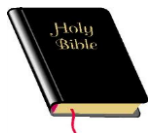
Number of Personalized St John's Tumblers with name (\$20): _____

Name as you would like it on Tumbler: _____
(If more than one please use the back)

Payment due with order form!

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.



Lectionary Readings for August 2022



August 7 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost–

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:18, 22-23; Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22;
Hebrew 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 14 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost –

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82;

August 21 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost –

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8;
Hebrew 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 28 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost –

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:10-16; Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrew
13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

August 2022



- 2 – Doris Todd
William Hein
- 4 – Kim Meitzler
- 5 – Yvonne Fillman
- 9 – Bruce DeLong Sr.
Megan Edwards
- 10 – Noah Dopera
- 11 – Anna Mae Schul
- 13 – Nancy Kramer-
Moyer
- 14 – Lisa Hoffert
- 20 – Carol Wikerd
Stacey
Dannenhower
- 24 – James Moran
- 27 – Jeanette
Schmoyer
- 28 – Allison Hausman
- 29 – Joanne
McLaughlin



8/14 – Byron & Janet Cook
8/16 – Bonnie & William Falla
8/26 – Richard & Judith Guhl

	1	2	3 9am Prayer Call	4	5	6
7 10am Worship Holy Communion	8	9 PASTOR BECKY	10 9am Prayer Call IS ON VACATION	11	12	13
14 10am Worship Rev. Alice Roth Preaching	15	16	17 9am Prayer Call	18	19	20
21 10am Worship PRIDE at JCC	22 Book Study Trinity Room 7pm	23	24 9am Prayer Call	25 Bike Works Picnic 5:30-7:30 pm	26	27
28 10am Worship	29	30	31 9am Prayer Call			

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August – Named to honor the first Roman emperor (and grand nephew of Julius Caesar), Augustus Caesar (63 BC-AD 14).



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

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