

# The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 24

September 2022

Howdy St. John's Family,

I was reading an article from the greater United Church of Christ called, "Churches let go of buildings and find ways to keep on worshiping, witnessing, working", by Hans Holznagel. The article was published on August 16 of this year, and I would highly recommend giving it a glance if you get the chance. It shared three examples of how churches across the U.S. are rethinking and reimagining what church looks like in 2022. Peace UCC in Missouri has decided to sell their building, opting to worship down the street in Eden Theological Seminary's chapel. At Archwood UCC in Cleveland, Ohio, they have sold their building to a Latinx cultural arts center; they continue to worship there on Sundays and still run their food outreach program from the building, feeding those in need.

In Granby, Connecticut, First and South Congregational Churches have decided to unite together, forming a new congregation. Holznagel reports that "they've agreed to let decisions about their building follow their emerging mission". These two churches had actually been one congregation that split back in the 1870s, but for several decades they have shared ministry, mission trips, and even youth ministry events. They share a passion for food equity and will continue to work on that together. The moderator from South's congregation reported, "We are not merging, we are creating a new church together".

As we prepare to join with Zion's UCC for their final worship on October 2, and as we support Emmanuel UCC through the process of closing their building, I find myself reading about the approaches of other churches and wondering, what will the future of ministry look like in Allentown? Please join me in pondering, dreaming, and reimagining the possibilities together as we continue the discussion of creating something entirely new!

-Pastor Becky Sausser

## September Special Mission Offering

### BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME ANNUAL OFFERING

Our Special Mission Offering for September is Bethany Children's Home. "Bethany Children's Home has been providing abused, neglected, and abandoned youth residential care in a safe, secure, and supportive homelike environment since 1863. Started as an orphanage, we continue to work with our communities to provide children and youth a safe place to learn how to be a kid, develop life skills, and help them overcome their challenges.

"We have recently expanded our services to provide the Helping Hands program temporarily to shelter unaccompanied children who have crossed our borders to enter the United States. These children are seeking to reunite with their families who already reside in the U.S. Many are victims of human trafficking and/or have come from very dangerous environments. The children, infants through eighteen years of age, are in desperate need of a safe and appropriate shelter while seeking reunification with their family members. These children, arriving with nothing, will be supplied with the necessities and small comforts that are needed while in our care."

Please consider supporting St. John UCC's longstanding offering to Bethany. The offering will be received throughout September. You can include it with your regular church offering or send a check to St. John's designated for "Bethany Children's Home" or you can use the Donate button on our website. Thank you.

### **Important Dates:**

#### **Worship Information – September Sermons**

##### September Sermons

- September 4
  - Reading 1: Jeremiah 18:1-11
  - Reading 2: Philemon 1-21
  - Call to worship: Psalm 139
  - Title: Love & Faith

- The Lord sends Jeremiah down to the potter's house to learn about God's love through the imagery of the potter and the clay. In Philemon we follow a beautiful story of forgiveness and love!
- September 11
  - Reading 1: Luke 15:1-10
  - Reading 2: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
  - Call to worship: Resources
  - Title: Rejoice with me!
  - Jesus shares the parable of a lost sheep and a lost coin while Paul writes to the young minister Timothy about the importance having gratitude for Christ's mercy.
- September 18
  - Reading 1: Luke 16: 1-13
  - Reading 2: 1 Timothy 6:1-7
  - Call to worship: Resources
  - Title: Error 404 Sermon Title Not Found
  - In the gospel, Jesus shares the reality that we can't serve two masters and treat them both with faith. In 1 Timothy we receive instructions for prayer.
- September 25
  - Reading 1: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
  - Reading 2: 1 Timothy 6:6-19
  - Call to worship: Psalm 91
  - Title: Keeping the Faith
  - In Jeremiah we see a message of hope for God's people, and in 1 Timothy we hear a call to beware false teachers as we keep our faith in Christ strong!

### **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:**

### **Accessible 2 All**

Recently St. John's began the important process of working toward becoming an Accessible 2 All congregation! This is the terminology used by the United Church of Christ to identify churches who have, "made the commitment to be physically and attitudinally welcoming of people with disabilities". One of the first steps in the process is to form a small group and complete an audit of the church building accessibility. Thank you to Wendy Williams and Jeanette Schmoyer for agreeing to serve and help St John's navigate through this process! After completing the audit, we found that there are many things we are doing well, but there is still work to be done! Over the next year I hope you will join with me in working to become more intentional about inclusion and accessibility; and if you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Becky and let her know!

### **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

### **Sidewalk Bake Sale 2022**

Snickerdoodle, apple strudel, chocolate frosted cake  
Rhubarb tarts in shape of hearts...which one shall I bake?

Berry bars, cupcakes with stars, these are made with ease  
Brownies, pies, all cut to size, all are meant to please

Though cheesecakes, creams may be your dreams, these items might well spoil  
Some other treats make better eats, (in Glad-wrap, not in foil)

Perhaps you're led to lemon bread or tastes like crème-de-menthe  
Just choose and bake for heaven's sake, the sale's September tenth.

Sidewalk Sale is Saturday, September 10 from 8am to 1pm  
Speak with Trudi Egan or Becky Bronfenbrenner about your choice of Bake Sale items.

## ADULT FORUM

Welcome Back! Old friends and new, please join us Sunday mornings before worship for a variety of studies and programs. We gather in the Trinity Room at 9:30 for coffee or tea, then begin our program at 9:45 with a sharing of joys and concerns.

This is what we have planned for the autumn:

Sept. 11-Traditional Rally Day breakfast, downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sept. 18-Pastor Becky will kick off our year with a look at scripture passages on disability and inclusion, inspired by our book study and St. John's journey toward becoming a "WISE" and "Accessible 2 All" congregation.

Sept. 25-Carol Wickert, Dick Schaffer, and Pam Brubaker recently participated in a march in Washington to support The Poor People's campaign and returned full of excitement. Come find out more about their experiences and this important work.

Oct. 2-Adult Forum will meet in the Trinity Room prior to our going together to Zion's service. Barb Connolly from the League of Women Voters will address questions about the upcoming election. How can you ensure that your vote is counted? Do changes in voting districts change your representatives or where you vote? Where can you find nonpartisan candidate information? Please raise any concerns you might be having.

Oct. 9-Laura Lawrrence will educate us on the history and principles of the Baha'i Faith.

Oct. 16-St. John's Ecumenical Food Bank volunteers will be glad to welcome the Executive Director, Anne Egan, who has worked with us for a long time through many changes at the organization. Anne will give Adult Forum an update on this vital program for our city.

Oct. 23-Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, our PNEC conference minister, will be with us once again to catch us up on what is new with the PNEC and to answer any questions. Come welcome Bonnie and learn more about our conference and the UCC.

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# Fall Calendar

## **September**

- 10- Sidewalk Sale at St John's from 8am-1pm
- 11- Rally Day Breakfast at 9:30am &  
Church Service at 11am

## **October**

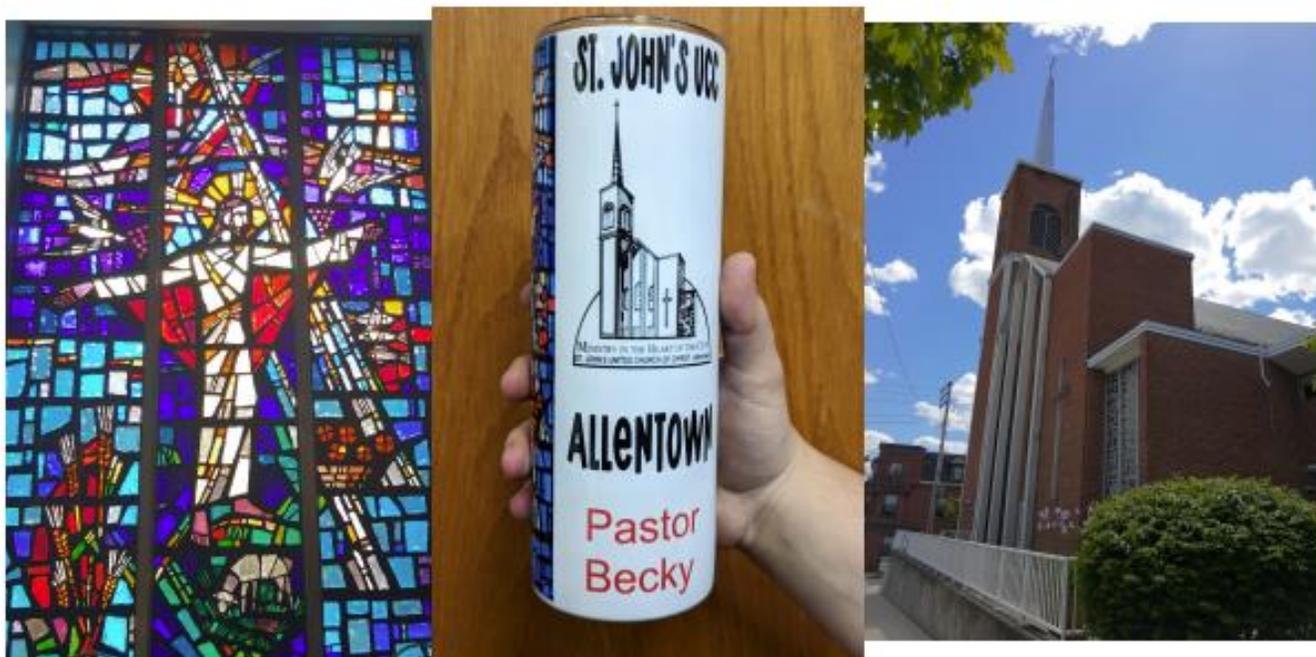
- 2- St. John's joins Zion's service at 10:45am  
More information is in The Disciple!
- 9- CROP Walk- stay after the service for pizza  
and then join us for this fall tradition!
- 30- Pastor Becky's Installation Service at 3pm  
In Sanctuary; light refreshments after the service!

## **November**

- 6- All Saints' Day Service 11am
- 27- Advent Breakfast at 9am



# 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!

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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 September 2022



#### **September 4 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost–**

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Deuteronomy 30:15-20;  
Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

#### **September 11 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10;  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

#### **September 18 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113;  
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

#### **September 25 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Amos 6:1a, 4-7;  
Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

# September 2022



3 – Nancy Rissell  
 4 – Katrina Schuler  
 6 – William Falla  
 9 – Alan Cloak  
 12 – Cassidy Bell  
 18 – Lesley Hein  
 21 – Byron Cook  
 27 – Marjorie Cloak



9/03 – Thomas and Kelly Rissell  
 9/08 – Richard and Jeanette Schmoyer

9/09 – Alan and Lynn Cloak  
 9/17 – Barbara

				1	2	3
4 10am Worship Holy Communion	5	6 Elders Meeting 1 pm	7 9am Prayer Call	8	9	10 Yard Sale 8-2 pm
11 Rally Day – 9:30 11am Worship	12	13 Consistory Meeting 7 pm	14 9am Prayer Call	15	16	17
18 11am Worship	19	20	21 9am Prayer Call	22	23	24
25 11am Worship	26	27	28 9am Prayer Call	29	30	

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September – From the Latin word septem, “seven,” because this had been the seventh month of the early Roman calendar.



## **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