

# The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 25

October 2022

Howdy St. John's Family,

I hope this finds you in good health and good spirits! Many of you know that Halloween is my favorite holiday! From its history as All Hallows Eve (the night before All Saint's Day), to the modern-day celebration with costumes and candy, it brings me so much joy! This year I learned that October is also National Bat Appreciation Month! These amazing little creatures may give you the creeps, but without them, many of our favorite flowers and fruits would go unpollinated. With over 1,400 species world-wide and ranging in size from 1 inch (Kitti's hog-nosed bat or *bumblebee bat*) to the flying fox bat with a wingspan of roughly 5 feet, I found myself admiring the diversity in God's creation!

Growing up, my parents read to my siblings and me every night, and one of our favorites was *Stellaluna*, by Janell Cannon. This is the story of an adorable fruit bat who becomes separated from her mom and finds some unusual friends in a group of baby birds. It is a story about friendship, adapting to change, and family! And of course, the author provides information about bats at the end. The story of *Stellaluna* came up from the drudges of my mind as I was thinking about our church and the other churches, the ones we are in conversation with about merging. When *Stellaluna* has her world turned upside down, her newfound friends and family help her to feel more at ease... how can we be welcoming and loving? In what way can we accommodate and help? What is God calling us to do? Thank you for pondering these questions with me as we transition into fall, and have a very happy Halloween! Blessings!

-Pastor Becky Sausser

## Consistory Summary

The Consistory meeting was held on Tuesday, September 13, at 7pm in the Trinity room. Moving forward we will also offer a Zoom hybrid option for joining. Pastor Becky shared a devotional. The minutes from our last meeting were approved pending one correction. The Treasurer's reports from the months the consistory did not meet were approved. Pastor Becky shared some highlights from the summer and some of the updates on administration. Car information was collected this year for parking passes, a railing was installed in the back staircase of the sanctuary by Barney Cook for lectors to use, Welcome Bags for guests were completed and introduced. Pastor Becky and Claudia are working hard to keep our website and social media presence up to date to help with publicizing our church. A motion was made to approve Pastor Becky's request to publish an ad in the *Northampton Press*, a publication that covers eight papers and several school districts. We will try the ad for the remainder of 2022 and evaluate. Pastor Becky also shared some grant opportunities she hopes to pursue.

St. John's will join Zion UCC for their last service on October 2, and we will participate in serving communion. Grace UCC has decided not to participate in any further discussion about merging. Kathy Heckman, the president of Emmanuel's Consistory, joined us in person to share an update on Emmanuel. They are still interested in joining with St. John's UCC and hope to bring with them some fun and exciting traditions. Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer joined us via Zoom. Benevolence reported that the grants are due the end of this month for the St. John's UCC Community grants. Fellowship reported a successful Rally Day and Bake Sale. A request was made to rent a U-Haul to take the remaining items from the Sidewalk Sale to Jubilee Ministries, a prison ministry; the motion was approved. Property shared a list of items that will be discussed at the Property & Building Committee meeting next week including discussions of a new roof, and fixing the ladies room downstairs. Christian Ed reported that Sunday School starts next week. There was no old business. Under new business it was shared that the YMCA is having a Trunk or Treat night. Judy will discuss it with the St. John's youth to see if they are interested. There was a request submitted to rent the "Blue room" across from the Trinity room. After discussion, the request was denied. The next meeting will be October 11 at 7pm in the Trinity room. Pastor Becky closed the meeting with prayer.

## Central for the Disciple 2022 October

### Our Ministry with Central Elementary School

Thank you for your donations to Central! We are making a difference in the children's lives. October is the month we begin collecting hats, coats, and mittens for Central's students. Having endured heat wave after heat wave this summer, it's hard to imagine wintertime, but that biting cold will be here before we know it and it will be harshest on those who have the least. That's why we start collecting those winter necessities now, so the children who have the least, can be protected from the cold.

You may bring hats, coats, or mittens into church or, if you're giving cash or a check, please put it in an envelope clearly marked "Central hats/coats/mittens". If you give on-line, please look for the Central Elementary column.

The annual BOO-ktacular event will be held during school hours on October 28. They are hoping to get enough readers from the community to read a story to one or two classrooms so that every classroom gets to hear a story read by a community reader. The students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character. The readers may do the same if they choose to.

We haven't been given a list of specific time slots or classrooms as of the time of this writing. If you'd like to be a BOO-ktacular reader, please contact me, Wendy Williams, by email at [windwend1@gmail.com](mailto:windwend1@gmail.com), or text or call me at 484-225-6708. If you get my voicemail, please leave a message and I'll get right back to you.

Submitted by Wendy Williams

## October Special Mission Offering

Our Special Mission Offering for October is **Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need (NIN)** supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct services. These grants are awarded to local UCC churches and organizations to support works of justice and compassion in their communities.

The remaining third is used to support our Native American neighbors within the UCC. This is accomplished by NIN's support of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Currently, there are 21 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The funds are used to support the ministries of these congregations. CAIM also serves as a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations throughout the U.S.

We would ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to support these ministries of justice and compassion throughout the month of October. You may do so by writing a check to St. John's UCC-Allentown designated for NIN, making it a designated part of your weekly offering or by using the DONATE button on our website. Thank you.

### **Important Dates:**

#### **Worship Information – October Sermons**

##### October Sermons

- October 2  
St. John's Congregation will join with Zion's United Church of Christ for communion and worship at 10:45. Zion's UCC is our parent denomination, and this will be the final worship service held at Zion's.
- October 9
  - Reading 1: Luke 17:11-19
  - Reading 2: 2 Timothy 2:8-15
  - Call to worship: Psalm 66

- Title: Do your best
- In the gospel we hear about Jesus' cleansing ten men with skin diseases, and the one who returns to thank Jesus. In our epistle lesson, we hear the call to do our best!
- Reminder: The CROP Walk is today after the service!
- October 16
  - Chaplain Colleen Smith will be preaching while Rev. Becky Sausser is away on vacation.
- October 23
  - Reading 1: Sirach 35:13-17
  - Reading 2: Luke 18:9-14
  - Call to worship: Psalm 65
  - Title: Gracious Unto You
  - In our gospel, Jesus shares a parable about a man who humbles himself before God. In the teachings of Sirach we learn the importance of generosity and humility.
- October 30
  - Reading 1: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
  - Reading 2: Luke 19:1-10
  - Call to worship: Psalm 119
  - Title: KISS (Keep It Short & Simple)
  - Habakkuk tells us the importance of writing down our goals and dreams while in the gospel we hear the familiar story of Zacchaeus in the Sycamore tree.
  - Reminder: Come back and join us for Pastor Becky's Installation at 3pm!

### **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 congregations 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!

October 2- St. John's UCC will join with Zion's UCC for their closing service. The service begins at 10:45. We will share in communion together. Following the service St. John's will host a Fellowship hour.

October 9- Meet in the Trinity room after the service to share in pizza together. Then we will all head to the Allentown CROP Walk! A walk to work toward ending hunger!

October 30- Pastor Becky's Installation service will be at 3pm in the sanctuary. This service is an important way to affirm our mutual commitment to ministry in the heart of the city! Light refreshments will be served after the service.

## **Announcements:**

**Something exciting to look forward to:**

**Our delicious  
Nuts and Truffles  
Fundraising Sale**

These tasty treats will make a perfect addition to your Thanksgiving  
celebration  
or  
a fabulous hostess gift!

(Additional information to be announced.)



Looking for a sign? We've got one! Our electric sign has been such a blessing; it has helped us connect with the community and let everyone know we have a lot going on!

We are roughly \$5,000 away from paying off the debt from this major purchase! If you would like to help us stomp out this debt, you can make a donation to the church and make a note that it is going toward the E-sign! Thank you!

## ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum looks forward to welcoming several wonderful guests in October. 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:

October 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.

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

October 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.

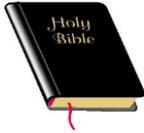
October 23-Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, our PNEC conference minister, will be with us once again to catch us up on what is new with the PNEC and to answer any questions. Come welcome Bonnie and learn more about our conference and the UCC.

October 30- We are delighted to have a return visit from our neighbors at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. Gabby Hochfeld, Arts and Culture Programs Coordinator, will discuss what is happening at the center.

Hope to see you all at Adult Forum!

## **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 October 2022



#### **October 2 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost–**

Lamentation 1:1-6, Lamentation 3:19-26; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4;  
Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 14:5-10

#### **October 9 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c;  
Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 14:11-19

#### **October 16 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; Genesis 32:22-31;  
Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 15:1-8

#### **October 23 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost –**

Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65; Sirach 35:12-17; 2  
Timothy 4:6:8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

#### **October 30 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost –**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; Isaiah 1:10-18;  
Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonian 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

# October 2022



- 7 – Keith Morris  
Delia Phillips
- 8 – Trudi Egan
- 9 – Cheryl Phillips
- 14 – Melissa Repash
- 19 – Thomas Raub
- 20 – Brenda Saylor
- 22 – Du’Quan  
Stellinburg
- 27 – Bonnie Falla
- 29 – Sterna Klingborg
- 30 – Nancy Zeky



10/06 – Robert and Susan Fegley  
 10/17 – Bruce and Florence DeLong  
 10/26 – James and Brenda Saylor

2  10:45am Worship <b>WORSHIP AT ZION</b>	3	4  Elders Meeting 1pm	5  9am Prayer Call	6	7	8
9  11am Worship <b>CROP WALK</b>	10	11  Consistory Meeting 7pm <b>PASTOR BECKY IS</b>	12  9am Prayer Call <b>ON VACATION</b>	13	14	15
16  11am Worship <b>CHAPLAIN COLLEEN SMITH</b>	17	18  Benevolence Zoom Meeting 7pm	19  9am Prayer Call	20	21	22
23  11am Worship	24	25	26  9am Prayer Call	27	28	29
30  11am Worship <b>3PM PASTOR BECKY INSTALLATION SERVICE</b>	31					

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October – From the Latin word octo, “eight,” because this had been the eighth month of the early Roman calendar.

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

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