

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 22 Issue 26

November 2022

Howdy St. John's Family,

Have you ever heard of NaNoWriMo? It stands for National Novel Writing Month! It began back in 1999 as a challenge encouraging people to try to write a 50,000-word novel in the 30 days of November. Now it is a nonprofit with tools, workshops, and other resources to help encourage writers of all ages and demographics to join NaNoWriMo! This challenge is not aimed at writers, but at the average person who always wanted to try something like this, and never had the courage or the encouragement to go for it! Hundreds of NaNoWriMo novels have been traditionally published, like Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants*, Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*, Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl*, and Marissa Meyer's *Cinder*. The official NaNoWriMo website states that hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin writing on November 1; "they enter the month as elementary school teachers, mechanics, or stay-at-home parents. They leave novelists".

I will admit, I gave NaNoWriMo a try a few years ago when I was in seminary. I can't tell you if my novel was any good, but I was nearly stupefied by the fact that I could do it! It reminded me of Proverbs 14:23: "In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty." I deeply admire the book of Proverbs and I feel that it is underrated! It is a collection of wisdom sayings and proverbs... obviously! In all toil there is profit; to me, that means that everything we do is a learning opportunity. Win or lose, succeed or fail, every experience can teach us something. It can be hard to try new things though... many of us tend toward the hobbies and activities we are familiar with, and that is okay too. Is there something new you have wanted to try, but keep putting off? Maybe you could write the next great American novel? We will never know until we try! So happy November, stay safe, and God bless! Pastor Becky Sausser

Consistory Summary

A2A Update

Here at St. John's, we have made the commitment to work toward becoming Accessible to All (A2A) That is the language the United Church of Christ uses to identify churches that are committed to creating a welcoming environment for people of all abilities! These bi-monthly updates are to tell you about the steps we are taking toward this goal. Last month we added reflective visibility tape to the sloped areas that folks will encounter using the elevator on the lower level to access our social hall. If you've ever taken the hallway that leads from the elevator down to the main hall, you might not have noticed the slope. For a person using a walker or cane and unmarked slope or change in elevation could lead to tripping or added difficulty. One of our next projects will be to add this safety tape to the staircases throughout the church to aid folks with low vision in safely using our stairs.

Covenant Cards

On November 20, we will bring in our Covenant Cards so that we can bless them before God! What is a Covenant Card? It is a card we send out every year asking you to reaffirm your commitment to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ! These cards also provide a place to share your financial commitment with the church as a way for St. John's to set the budget more accurately for 2023. Whether you fill that section out or not is up to you, but I would highly encourage you to send in your Covenant Card for our service on November 20, or bring it to church that day so that we might share in the joy of our ministry and mission for Christ in the heart of the city!

Central for the Disciple 2022 November

Our Ministry with Central Elementary School

If it's before Friday, October 28, you can still take part in Central's Boo-ktacular by reading a book to a class either in person or virtually. Please text or call Wendy Williams at 484-225-6708 to sign up.

St. John's was **very** well represented at Central's Community Partners meeting on September 28 by Pastor Becky, Trudi Egan, Rick Guhl, and Wendy

Williams, via zoom. Congratulations to principal Becky Bodnar, who just marked her eighth year at Central, making her the longest-sitting elementary school principal in the Allentown School District.

Thank you for all the backpacks and school supplies!

The inventory list included:

30 notebook binders

16 backpacks

36 used books and pencils, erasers, paper, and other items.

Thank you, too, to Rick Guhl, who takes each month's offerings to Central!

We are continuing to collect hats, coats, and mittens for Central throughout this Thanksgiving month. There are close to 700 students for whom Central is not only their school, but is also a trusted place to turn to for food and clothing and so many other things we take for granted.

Each one of these winter necessity items will be received eagerly and thankfully not only by the children and their families, but also by the teachers and staff who do everything they can to take care of their *littles*.

You may bring your gifts of hats, coats, and mittens with you to church or, if you're giving cash or a check, please put it in an envelope clearly marked *Central hats/coats/mittens*. If giving on-line, please look for the Central Elementary column.

Submitted by Wendy Williams

November Special Mission Offering

News Flash: Tilly the Turkey announces her retirement!

After many years of faithful service, Tilly the Turkey has announced her retirement. However, even as she retires, she wants to remind us that the problem of hunger remains. Therefore, our Special Mission Offering for November is the **Allentown Ecumenical Foodbank**. Tilly also wants us to remember that while the donation of non-perishable food items is welcomed, monetary donations

are desired since the Foodbank can buy in bulk and purchase more food per dollar than we can.

So, let's honor Tilly in her retirement with our donations for the Foodbank during the month of November. We may do so by dropping off food items in the Foodbank tote in the Narthex. Monetary donations can be given using the pew or weekly offering envelopes (designated for the foodbank) or by using the Donate button on our website

Tilly, and more importantly those in need will thank you.

News from Community Bike Works

We are proud to support each of our students as they learn bike mechanics and experience the joy of riding. In our most recent program year, more than 560 students participated in Earn a Bike and Junior Earn a Bike, from Allentown to Bethlehem to Easton. More than 150 of these students continued to stay engaged in our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) cycling, and leadership programs. And a full 95% of Earn a Bike students reported that learning these new skills--from tools to teamwork, from bike safety to perseverance--helped them feel better about themselves!

With your support, we can continue this fall and well into the future to connect kids across the Lehigh Valley to bikes, mentors, and the joy of riding. THANK YOU!

Important Dates:

Worship Information – November Sermons

November Sermons

- November 6- All Saints' Day
 - Reading 1: Luke 20: 27-38
 - Reading 2: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
 - Call to Worship: Psalm 98 and Revelation 5
 - Title: With all the Saints
 - In the gospel we learn about the afterlife, and in our epistle lesson we celebrate our invitation to partake in salvation through the risen Christ!

- November 13- Guest minister
 - Pastor Becky will be attending a Next Generation Leadership Initiative event.
- November 20- Christ the King Sunday
 - Reading 1: Luke 1:68-79
 - Reading 2: Colossians 1:11-20
 - Call to Worship: Resources
 - Title: King of the Universe
 - This week we celebrate the kin-dom of Christ, examining the meaning of this kingdom and where we fit in the body of Christ.
- November 27- First Sunday in Advent
 - Reading 1: Matthew 24:36-44
 - Reading 2: Romans 13:11-14
 - Call to Worship: Isaiah 2:1-5
 - Title: Hope
 - In our gospel we hear a reminder of the coming of the Lord; in Romans we hear a call to action to be children of the light of the world!

Announcements:

Thanksgiving Truffle and Nut Fundraiser

Just in time for your Thanksgiving celebrations and family gatherings!

Make your events extra special with home-made sweet and salty peanuts, maple sugar almonds, dark chocolate/caramel truffles, dark chocolate/raspberry truffles, dark chocolate/mint truffles, and

NEW THIS YEAR: dark chocolate/orange truffles.

Please see the attached order sheet for more information.

Orders may be given directly to Lynn Cloak or placed in the indicated red box in the Great Hall. (Do not include payment with orders placed in the box.)

Orders may also be called in to the church office (610-433-0603).

Last day to order: Wednesday, November 9

Pickup date: November 20, 2021 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving)

These treats make great hostess gifts!

Name _____

Telephone _____

St. John's UCC Allentown
Thanksgiving Holiday Fund Raising Order Form
(Deadline: Wednesday, 11/09/2022)

Sweet and Salty Peanuts:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$6.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$12.00 each.....=\$ _____

Maple Sugar Almonds:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$8.00 each..... = \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$16.00 each.....= \$ _____

Dark Chocolate Caramel Truffles:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$9.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$18.00 each.....= \$ _____

Dark Chocolate Raspberry Truffles:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$9.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$18.00 each.....= \$ _____

Dark Chocolate Mint Truffles:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$9.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$18.00 each.....= \$ _____

Dark Chocolate Orange Truffles:

_____ # of ½ pound containers X \$9.00 each.....= \$ _____

_____ # of 1 pound containers X \$18.00 each.....=\$ _____

Assorted Truffles (caramel, raspberry, mint and orange):

_____ # of 1 pound containers at \$18.00 each.....= \$ _____

Total Cost.....\$ _____

Paid.....Cash ()

Check # _____

Orders will be available to pick up in the Great Hall at St. John's on Sunday, November 20 before or after the worship service.



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 continuing our fun in November. 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.

November 6- Barbara Yoder will be sharing thoughts and reflections about her father, George Yoder.

November 13- Have you heard the exciting news that the Da Vinci Science Center will be opening a new location in our neighborhood? Caroline Scutt, Director of Communications & Community Relations is joining us to share their plans for the downtown center. Come welcome our new neighbor!

November 20-Karl Jones, Conference Disaster Coordinator, will update us on the work of our conference and denomination in disaster ministries. With the tragedy of Hurricane Ian and seemingly constant natural disasters, this is a timely and important ministry of the UCC.

November 27-Christmas is coming! Kick off the season at our traditional Advent Breakfast.

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 November 2022



November 6 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost–

Hagar 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, Psalm 98; Job 19:23-27a;
Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost –

Proper 28; Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; Malakai 4:1-2a;
Psalm 98; 2 Thessalian 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost –

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Psalm 46; Colossian 1:11-20;
Luke 23:33-43

November 27 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost –

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthews 24:36-44

November 2022

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5 – Sarah Collier
 6 – Cyrah Morris
 7 – Joseph Hein
 8 – Byron Cook
 10 – James
 Bronfenbrenner
 Piper Van Ingen
 17 – Noelle Schuler
 23 – Jay Mosebach
 25 – Daniel Collier
 27 – Susan Steinberg

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

11/07 – Todd Saylor and Edward Gildea
 11/25 – Cindie and Joe Penzes

11am Worship		1 Elders Meeting 1pm	2 9am Prayer Call	3	4	5
6 11am Worship All Saints' Day Service	7	8 Consistory Meeting 7pm	9 9am Prayer Call	10	11	12
13 11am Worship Guest preacher Chaplain Laura Oesterle	14	15 Benevolence Zoom Meeting 7pm	16 9am Prayer Call	17	18	19
20 11am Worship Covenant Card Dedication	21	22	23 9am Prayer Call	24	25	26
27 11am Worship Advent Breakfast	28	29	30 9am Prayer Call			

November – From the Latin word novem, ‘nine,’ because this had been the ninth month of the early Roman calendar.

Visit us at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

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

