

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 23 Issue 35

August 2023

Howdy St. John's Family,

Some of you already know this about me; I commute from Kutztown every day. The drive between my home and the church takes about 35 minutes if there is no traffic... but there is usually traffic, ha! Sidenote: You will notice that as a Pennsylvania native, I give directions via time rather than geographic distance. I often pass the time with prayer and listening to music, but a few months ago Christina and I joined an audio book subscription, and it has cracked my commute wide open! (Though I still do a fair amount of praying!) If it has been some time since you read a good book that made you pause and really contemplate what you just read (or heard), I'd like to recommend John Green's new book, *The Anthropocene Reviewed*. Imitating the format of a book reviewer, Green rates portions of the human experience on a five-star scale.

In one of my favorite reviews, Green wrote about the invention of the QWERTY keyboard. The name QWERTY comes from the top row of letters on the keyboard itself. Near the end of the 19th century, typewriters were being mass-produced for the first time! The Sholes and Glidden typewriter is credited as the first mass-produced keyboard to feature this specific layout, but the order of the keys wasn't chosen by chance. This layout came after a long process of trial and error, and dozens of folks volunteering their time and energy! The first keyboard had the letters listed as they appear in the alphabet, but this design proved to be too hard to type with, and the letters jammed frequently. There was another design that came a little closer to our modern QWERTY keyboard, but after dozens of volunteers used this keyboard, there were some minor modifications made that brought us to our familiar QWERTY keyboard!

This story reminded me of Hebrews 10:24-25, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...". Hebrews was written for an audience that knew the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament; they were familiar with the stories of Abraham and the exodus and wandering in the desert. When I read these particular verses, I am reminded that we need each other! We need each other to learn and grow! The QWERTY keyboard was possible because a group of individuals shared the goal of creating something to change the world... just imagine the possibilities when we as the church set our sights on Jesus!

Blessings!

-Pastor Becky Sausser

August Special Mission Offering

Our Special Mission Offering for August is the **Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank**. The Ecumenical Food Bank, located on North 14th Street in Allentown, serves those experiencing hunger and food insecurity. Open five days a week, they currently are serving around 7,000 individuals per month. A recent 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. This is the preferred means of support since they are able to get more food per dollar that can you or I. Second, you may bring wholesome, nonperishable food items that are not past their expiration date. Third, you can join the other volunteers from St. John's who currently assist at the Food Bank. 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 Food Bank. Foodstuffs can be left in the Food Bank bin in the Narthex. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy Kramer-Moyer.

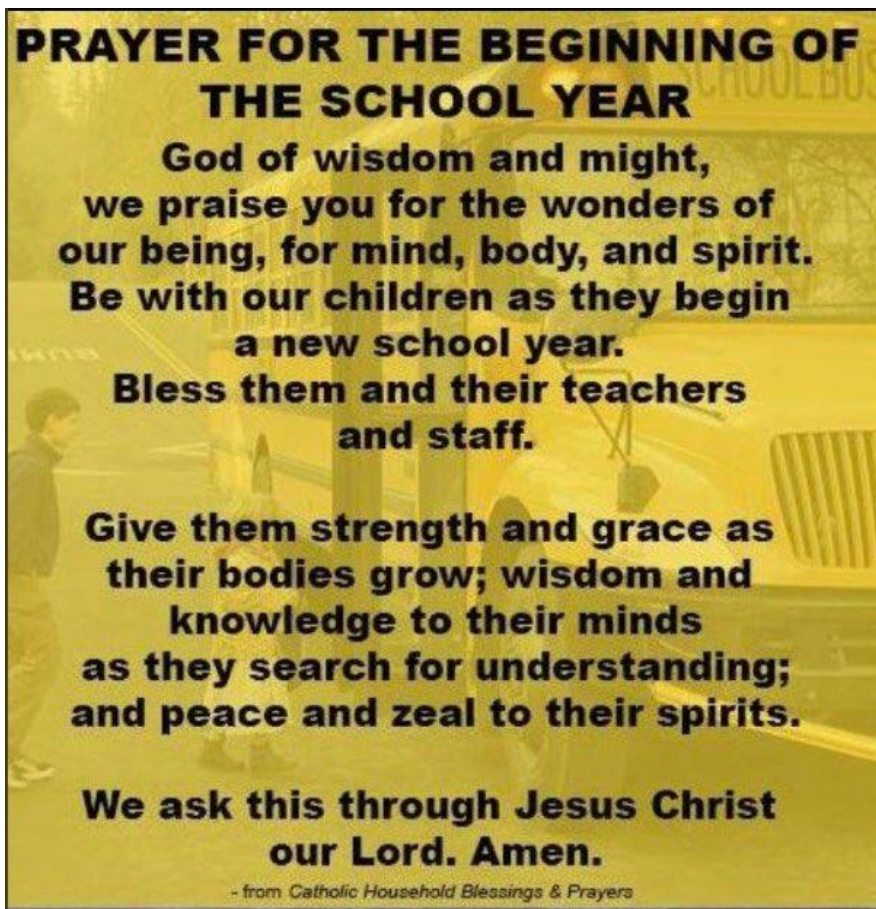
Won't you please find a way to help with this vital ministry. Thank you.

NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BIKE WORKS Submitted by Jeanette Schmoyer

The youth of Community Bike Works are so excited to announce that the national Youth Bike Summit 2024 is coming to the Lehigh Valley! The Youth Bike Summit is a gathering of young people and their supporters from around the country who are committed to using bicycles to empower youth. Since the first Youth Bike Summit in 2011, up to 500 young people each year have come together to learn about the power of bikes to support young people's education, physical health, mental health, and community advocacy.

Community Bike Works is thrilled to have been selected to host this national conference, thanks to the leadership of our teens at previous Youth Bike Summit gatherings. You'll hear more from us about the Youth Bike Summit over the next several months. In the meantime, head to our website to learn more about ways to get involved in YBS2024, including through volunteering or sponsorship. It is thanks to your continued support that we are able to engage in these exciting opportunities with our students and community!

Visit our Website: <https://communitybikeworks.org/>



Submitted by Pastor Becky

Sermons in August

Ask in August Sermon Series

- August 6
 - Reading 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
 - Reading 2: Matthew 7:7-12
 - Call to worship: Based on Matthew 6:33
 - Title: Ask in August.
 - In this first sermon of our summer sermon series, “Ask in August”, we will look at the importance of asking questions, and talk about what we do when we can’t find the answers we were looking for. Each week we will answer questions submitted by the congregation!
- August 13
 - Reading 1: Matthew 9:9-13
 - Reading 2: 1 John 3:1-3
 - Call to worship: Resources
 - Title: Wreck-It Ralph.

- After our family Movie Night (August 12), come join us for a message about the film! We will look at some of the overarching themes from Disney's 'Wreck-It Ralph' and see how they speak to our own faith journeys! We will also explore questions submitted about how to reach out to our community!
- August 20
 - Reading 1: 1 Corinthians 1:20-31
 - Reading 2: Ephesians 3:14-20
 - Call to worship: Based on Ephesians 3:17
 - Title: Bring Me a Higher Love.
 - This week we explore our relationships with God and each other as we explore what God may be calling us toward!
- August 27
 - Reading 1: Psalm 13:1-2, 5-6; Proverbs 3:5-7
 - Reading 2: Matthew 27: 46
 - Call to worship: Based on Psalms of lament
 - Title: Why Do Bad Things Happen?
 - This week we take a look at the "theodicy" question; if God is all knowing, all powerful, and all good, why do bad things happen?

Announcements

Movie Night at St. John's UCC

On **August 12** join us for a family-friendly movie night! Popcorn and drinks will be provided, so sit back, relax, and enjoy a night of entertainment on us! Then come back the next day (Sunday, August 13) for a sermon on the movie.



Free family movie night at St. John's UCC in Allentown! Come watch 'Wreck-It Ralph' with us on **August 12 at 7pm!**

St. John's UCC, Allentown
36 S. 6th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

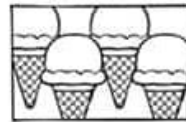
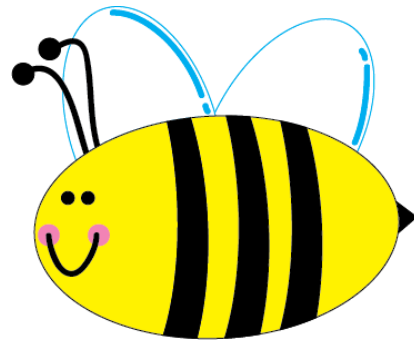
**Handicap accessible building!
Come to the Walnut street entrance.**

Call 610-433-0146 if you have any questions!

Lehigh Valley PRIDE

On **August 20**, St. John's UCC, Allentown, will join with the other Open and Affirming congregations in the Penn Northeast Conference to run a booth at PRIDE! PRIDE this year is held at the Bethlehem Steel Stacks from 2-8:30pm; this is the 30th anniversary of Lehigh Valley Pride! Admission is free!

7	4					6	5
8							7
		1	6		4	9	
3				5			1
	8	7		9		6	2
		9				7	
	2		5		1		7
	7	8	3		6	5	1



August Word Search

H	J	E	I	M	O	N	T	H	K	A
F	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	O	Y
A	U	G	U	R	V	U	H	M	S	T
W	S	X	M	B	M	G	K	P	C	X
P	U	K	M	A	O	U	I	O	H	F
G	O	S	E	S	I	S	Q	D	I	O
A	D	O	R	E	C	T	K	P	U	W
Q	U	C	L	B	S	C	H	O	O	L
F	G	E	I	G	H	T	H	J	R	E




August	Hot
Summer	Pool
Eighth	Baseball
Month	School

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August 2022

						
8/14 – Byron & Janet Cook 8/16 – Bonnie & William Falla 8/26 – Richard & Judith Guhl						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1pm Trinity Rm Elder's Meeting	2 9am Prayer Call	3	4	5 PNEC Carlisle Indian School Tour
6 10am Worship Holy Communion	7	8	9 9am Prayer Call	10	11	12 Movie Night 7pm in Social Hall
13 10am Worship	14	15	16 9am Prayer Call	17	18	19 Interfaith Worship Service PRIDE 7pm
20 10am Worship PRIDE at Bethlehem Steel Stacks	21	22	23 9am Prayer Call	24	25	26
27 10am Worship	28	29	30 9am Prayer Call	31		

- 
- 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

Check out our website: <https://stjohnsuccallentown.org/>

Follow us on Facebook by searching St. John's UCC Allentown (our logo is a picture of the church)

