

The Disciple

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

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

Volume 23 Issue 37

October 2023

Howdy St. John's Family,

I hope this finds you in good health and good spirits! At this point, it is no secret that last month I found myself facing some health issues. It was one of those wonderful moments that remind me that I am human and that I am not a super hero! I won't bore you with the details, and I'm doing much better now, but the reason I chose to write about this is because I wanted once again to express my deepest gratitude to you, the congregation of St. John's UCC!

I am so incredibly blessed to be able to serve such a loving, and wonderful congregation! This month marks a full year since my installation service and the amazing Halloween Party that the Fellowship Team assembled (see below)! To honor this anniversary, I thought I would share some of the verses that remind me of our church. Ephesians 2:19 tells us, "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the Saints and members of the household of God". 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing". And Romans 12:5 says, "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another".

When speaking with colleagues I call St. John's my *Unicorn Church*, because it is a mythical rarity to find such a loving congregation who cares so deeply and remains so dedicated to the work of the Lord! So thank you! Thank you for the thoughts and prayers, for the cards, emails, and phone calls; thank you for making me feel so incredibly loved! May the peace of Christ surround you this month so that you might feel His presence in the major and the mundane, and may you feel the love of this church family supporting you on life's journey!
-Pastor Becky Sausser



Consistory Summary

The Consistory meeting was held on September 12 at 7pm in the Trinity Room. Members shared joys and concerns, and Cindy Dannenhower shared devotions. The minutes from our meeting in June were approved. In the Pastor's Report, Pastor Becky shared a brief recap of the events that happened over the summer. The Battle Borne Food Share program is a success. The kitchen was closed at the end of July and will now only be used by members of the church. Invitations were sent out to young people eligible for confirmation. St. John's hosted a successful VBS and Movie Night, both of which were advertised on Facebook. Pastor Becky shared some analytics from the paid advertisements. From these results, she recommended that we utilize paid advertisement again for our Christmas service. Pastor Becky also presented a "Tobacco Free Policy". This policy is a building statement that declares St. John's as a tobacco- and smoke-free location. LVHN consultant Carol Dour wrote the policy for our church free. The policy was adopted. Pastor Becky also shared some up-and-coming dates, which can be located in this issue of the disciple. She also offered her heartfelt thanks to the consistory and the congregation for allowing her the time to heal after her recent surgery.

The Fellowship and Fundraising report was submitted by Lynn Cloak. Lynn reported on the picnic at Bucky Boyle Park, the movie night that was held in August as neighborhood outreach, and the special anniversary cake served during fellowship time on August 20 for Kathy and Jeff Hackman's 50th wedding anniversary! Under Fundraising, Lynn reported that in the future there will be a kitchen clean-up in anticipation of getting the kitchen certified. The plans for the Penny Party have been put on hold for now. And, there will be an "On the Menu" sale of pulled pork with rolls, coleslaw, and a possible dessert in October. The annual nuts and truffle sale is being planned with delivery prior to Thanksgiving. Under Property, Jeff Rissell reported that the A/C project has been completed. Jeff would like to have a brainstorming session to discuss other possible projects for the church. He recruited members of the consistory to help plan these discussions. Under Christian Ed., Pastor Becky reported that there will be three classrooms of students, and that they will all be in compliance with our Child Abuse Prevention policy. The Treasurer's report was received; thank you to Cassidy Bell, Jim Bronfenbrenner, and our whole Finance Team!

In the Personnel Committee report, Jeff Rissell reported that we received at least 50 applications for the office position. The Personnel Committee is in the process of interviewing folks. Under old business, there was no update on Battle Borne's request to use the parking lot for their MST groups. Rick Guhl will be holding a book study on October 1 for the Consistory members. The Green Team is scheduled to meet on September 24 after church. Under new business, Consistory President Jeff Rissell expressed a desire to invite formally any church member who is interested in attending a Consistory meeting to come in October. Cassidy Bell shared that the YMCA's Trunk or Treat night will be on October 19, from 6:30 to 8pm. Nancy Kramer-Moyer requested use of the parking lot for a group setting up a library at Zion's UCC. Pastor Becky said there are no spaces available. The meeting was closed with prayer. Our next meeting is October 10, 2023, at 7pm in the Trinity Room.

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. Special emphasis this year is on **the environment and programs that focus on caring for God's Creation**. These grants are awarded to local UCC churches and organizations to support works of justice and compassion in their communities such as St. John's Green Team Initiative.

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.

Submitted by Bill Falla

Our Ministry with Central Elementary School

It'll be winter before we know it, so **this month, we're beginning to collect hats, coats, and mittens for the children at Central**. Please bring your items into church with you on a Sunday or drop them off at the office any other day. You may put a check or cash into an envelope clearly marked "Central Elementary" or you may give on our website.

And one more personal note, my Dear Friends, my Charcot Marie Tooth has been progressing faster than I would have hoped and is causing me to have increasingly less energy and stamina. That being the case, I am no longer able to do justice to our partnership ministry with Central Elementary School and it is time to find a new coordinator. I will still be volunteering to read stories to classes and to tutor students who need extra help, all via Zoom. If you're interested in being the new coordinator or have any questions about it, please talk with Pastor Becky.

For over ten years now, we have given our hearts and souls to making a better life for the children at Central in whichever way each of us can. I have every confidence that our strong bond with Central will continue to grow and flourish...

because it isn't just **our** love for them;

it's God's love,

given to us,

to give to them.

Onward, then, sisters and brothers in Christ!

God's work awaits.

-Submitted by Wendy Williams

Support Community Bike Works- Cycle Challenge

Community Bike Works (CBW) is sponsoring their annual Cycle Challenge from October 1 to 15. Nancy and Allan Kramer-Moyer are asking you to support them as they participate in this challenge. They will be accumulating miles on their bikes or walking during those two weeks. The funds raised support CBW's Earn a Bike mentoring programs for Lehigh Valley youth. Any financial amount will be appreciated. You may give them the money directly during or after the event in the form of a check to "Community Bike Works", or even better, go to the Community Bike Works website and click on Cycle Challenge. We are listed under "Give credit to a fundraiser or team" and then look for "Nancy/Allan Kramer-Moyer". We are listed under "N"! Follow the prompts. We are excited to participate in this event and may try to form a team during the next annual challenge! Community Bike Works is a terrific program!!!



-Submitted by Nancy Kramer-Moyer

On the Menu Fund Raiser

Save yourself some work and let us provide your lunch or dinner on Sunday, October 15.

Take-out containers will be available of:

Pulled Roast Pork (BBQ or plain) in ½ pint or pint containers,

Rolls (2, 4 or 8),

Coleslaw in ½ pint or pint containers,

Assorted Baked Desserts

Enjoy some good homemade food and support the St. John's upcoming Capital Campaign to help pay for the new roof.

-Submitted by Lynn Cloak

October Sermons

- October 1- World Communion Day!
 - Reading 1: Matthew 21:23-32
 - Reading 2: Philippians 2:1-13
 - Call to worship: Psalm 78
 - Title: Imitation Christ.
 - In our reading from Philippians, we are called to become imitators of Christ, following his example.
- October 8
 - Reading 1: Exodus 20:1-20
 - Reading 2: Matthew 21:33-46
 - Call to worship: Resources
 - Title: The First Tablet to Connect to a Cloud.
 - This week we look at the 10 Commandments and contemplate the thought and meaning behind each of the Holy laws.
- October 15
 - Reading 1: Matthew 22:1-14
 - Reading 2: Philippians 4:1-9
 - Call to worship: Psalm 106
 - Title: Rejoice! And again, I say, Rejoice!
 - In our gospel we hear the parable of the wedding banquet, and in our epistle lesson we are reminded to rejoice always!
- October 22
 - Reading 1: Exodus 33:12-23
 - Reading 2: Matthew 22:15-22
 - Call to worship: Psalm 99
 - Title: Seeing God.
 - In Exodus we join Moses as the glory of the Lord passes by, and in Matthew we heed Jesus' words to give unto Caesar what is Caesar's. Our message explores how much easier it is to see the hand of God moving and working when we determine what has *real* value.
- October 29- Today we have a message from a guest minister.

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 so far for the autumn.

Oct. 1-“Sacred Stories”. Allan Kramer-Moyer will present a segment of the video, “Sacred Stories,” with Frederick Buechner, Maya Angelou, and James Carroll, then lead a discussion about the importance of telling our own personal stories. The discussion will include the presentation of an Outline for Life Reviews that may be used to share personal stories with family members and friends.

Oct. 8-In preparation for the upcoming election, Barbara Connolly, Director, Community Outreach, and Rochelle Kaplan from the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County will let us know any changes in voting places or procedures and direct us to nonpartisan election information. Be sure to vote on November 7!

Oct. 15—TBD

Oct. 22- Family Promise continues to help Lehigh Valley families in need. St. John's has supported their work from the beginning and Roslyn Kuba, Executive Director will join us to share an update and exciting possibilities.

Oct. 29-Margaret Borene from The Institute for Learning in Retirement who held classes at St. John's this summer calls her topic: "Elizabeth I and the English Reformation: What Would Luther Think?" She notes that the benefit of incorporating Luther's method of reform with Elizabeth's will be her highlight. Reformation as a process rather than our historical emphasis on a moment in time. Margaret makes history great fun!

-Submitted by Trudi Egan

Announcements

Fall Dates To Remember

- October 1- World Wide Communion Day
- October 19- Trunk or Treat at the YMCA 6:30-8pm
- October 22- Allentown CROP Walk
- November 5- All Saints' Day Celebration
- December 3- Advent Breakfast and First Sunday of Advent
- December 24- Sunday morning service at 11am and Christmas Eve service at 7:30pm

This Week in PNEC

Did you know that the Penn Northeast Conference has a weekly email packed with tons of information? If you go to the Conference website, www.pnec.org, you can subscribe and stay up to date on all the things happening in our Conference! From free trainings and webinars, to information about volunteer opportunities, and updates on the Keystone Study, *The Week in PNEC* has all you could want to know about the PNEC!

Getting to Know you

We have been incredibly blessed to be able to welcome so many wonderful folks into our congregation! Some of these folks are members who can no longer attend in person but are still a blessed part of the body of Christ and beloved members of St. John's UCC! In this new section of *The Disciple*, you will get to know who they are!

Lois Keener Frederick, member of Salem UCC and then Zion UCC, spent her early years in western Pennsylvania with her parents, sister, and brother. Her dad died when she was 17 and her mom never remarried. Her mother said, "She had had the best, so why do it again?"

Lois earned a BS in chemistry at Penn State and worked at American Cyanamid in New Jersey. Early on, her sister in Williamsport arranged for her to visit her and her husband. They were to be transported by a colleague of her brother-in-law from Allentown, Bill Frederick, whose parents lived in Mifflinburg. Thirteen months later Bill and Lois were married! She moved to Allentown where Bill was an electrical engineer for PPL. Lois was unable to pursue her career as PPL engineers' wives were not permitted to work outside the home.

They joined Salem UCC as Lois knew Rev. Zweizig from her childhood in western PA. They had five daughters, two who live in the Lehigh Valley, and the others in Ohio, Michigan, and Portugal.

Both Bill and Lois were very active in church and the Lehigh Valley, sharing their gifts and talents at Phoebe. (Bill as President of the Board of Directors, Lois baking hundreds of rhubarb custard pies each spring for their lawn fetes). Lois received an award for 50 years of service to the Association of the Blind. She served as majority inspector at the voting polls. She volunteered at the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank, as well as many other associations.

Unfortunately, Bill died two years ago. This past September 6 would have been their 70th wedding anniversary. Lois resides in her home with the assistance of family and part-time caregivers. She is a delight to talk with and we are so glad she chose St. John's UCC for her church home.

-Submitted by Nancy Kramer-Moyer

October 2023



7 – Keith Morris
 Delia Phillips
 8 – Trudi Egan
 9 – Cheryl Phillips
 14 – Melissa Repash
 19 – Thomas Raub
 20 – Brenda Saylor
 22 – Du'Quan
 Stellingburg
 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	2	3 Elder's Meeting	4	5 Volunteering at Food Bank!	6	7
8 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	9 Office Closed	10 Consistory Meeting	11 9am Prayer Call	12	13	14
15 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	16	17	18 9am Prayer Call	19	20	21
22 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	23	24	25 9am Prayer Call	26	27 Volunteering at Food Bank	28
29 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	30	31				

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)



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October Word Search

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blackcat	candy	creepy	fall
ghost	haloween	haunted	october
orange	scary	skeleton	thanksgiving
trickortreat	turkey	zombie	

