

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 26 Issue 3

March 2026

Howdy St. John's Family,

During this Lenten journey have you looked around to see with whom you are journeying? This month we are looking at the tribe of Levi, and his name means, "attached, joined, joined together in harmony". We see in Genesis that Levi is the third son of Jacob and Leah. Leah had chosen this name for her son because she had hoped that Levi's birth would *join* her together with Jacob, who preferred his other wife, her sister Rachel.

Despite his name meaning, *joined in harmony*, we see that Levi ends up being a bit of a divisive figure. We remember learning last month about his older brother Simeon, who joined with Levi to raid the city of Shechem in a bout of revenge. This story involves Levi and Simeon tricking the men of the city to be circumcised under the guise of uniting in harmony. While the men are still healing, Levi and Simeon strike and murder them. Jacob, their father, is very upset because this farce has endangered the family! Who could trust the family knowing that they murdered all the men of Shechem? We see that when it comes time for Jacob to dole out the blessings, we see that Jacob actually curses Levi and his descendants, that they would be scattered, rather than joined together. This curse is a clever twist on the intention of his name.

The tribe of Levi ends up becoming the temple staff, caring for the tabernacle and the temple. We see in the book of Numbers, chapter 18, that in return for their religious services, the tribes that were served would offer a tithe to the Levites to support them in return. On the breastplate of the high priest, we see that the tribe of Levi is represented by an emerald. Levi reminds me to look around and consider the folks who are journeying alongside me; thank you for being part of my journey. Have a blessed March!

-Rev. Becky Sausser

Consistory Summary

The Consistory meeting began at 7pm and acting President Nancy Rissell welcomed the new Deacon Allan Kramer-Moyer and the new Elders, Cassidy Bell and Becky Bronfenbrenner. After sharing joys and concerns, Janet Cook led a devotional. The minutes of the January 13 meeting were approved. In the election of officers Nancy Rissell will remain president for one more

term, Janet Cook will serve as vice president again. Becky Bronfenbrenner will remain our secretary and Cassidy Bell is the consistory treasurer.

In the minister's report, Pastor Becky began with a review of what the role of Consistory member means. She shared that the Lenten theme will be "Colors of Grace". Spring dates have been published, and in March we will invite the Building and Property committee to attend the Consistory meeting to determine the next project in our "Step by Step" Program. There was no new business. Under Committee reports, Lynn Cloak shared that Fellowship and Fundraising had several events going on like our soup sale and hoagie sale. The annual meeting luncheon was postponed due to weather, and we have decided on March eight to gather for food and fellowship. Under Christian Education, Pastor Becky shared that they were working on coordinating another pizza night for the youth with some of the other area youth groups. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Under Personnel it was shared that we are researching possible cleaning companies for the building. Under Green Team they shared that their clean up in the month of February was a success. Under Scholarship Committee, Nancy Rissel shared that invitations to apply will be sent to our youth soon. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026, at 7pm in the Trinity room.

-Respectfully submitted by Rev. Becky Sausser

March Special Mission Offering: Sharing the Love

Our Special Mission offering for March is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Every year for over 70 years, churches from many denominations have received the OGHS offering on one Sunday in Lent. This offering tends to the needs of those who suffer just as Jesus ministered to the needs of those who suffered. Today, whether it be from natural disasters, poverty or war, we are there with them in their time of need through OGHS. Our gifts provide well pumps for clean water, seeds and training for sustainable agriculture, food, medical kits, school supplies, temporary shelters and safe housing projects. Whether the suffering is on the other side of the world or here in the United States, OGHS funds are working to relieve that suffering.

Watch for OGHS stories in bulletin inserts during the month of March leading up to our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 15th though you may contribute any time in March. You may use the special OGHS envelope found in the Narthex; the blue envelope in the pew, as designated on your regular offering envelope or by using the Donate button on the Church Website. However you choose to give, please prayerfully consider doing your part to minister to the most vulnerable of God's children in love. Thank you.

March Sermons

- March 1
 - Reading 1: Psalm 121
 - Reading 2: John 3:1-17

- Title: Green
- This week we see Nicodemus come to Jesus in the night seeking answers to his questions.
- March 8
 - Reading 1: John 4:5-42
 - Title: Blue
 - This week we see the incredible conversation shared between Jesus and a Samaritan woman at a well. What can this story teach us about life in 2026?
- March 15
 - Reading 1: John 9:1-41
 - Title: Yellow
 - This week we see a man who was born blind having his sight restored by Jesus.
- March 22
 - Reading 1: John 11:1-45
 - Title: Purple
 - Lazarus is raised from the dead and Jesus weeps.
- March 29- Palm Sunday
 - Reading 1: Matthew 21:1-11
 - Reading 2: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 - Title: Brown
 - This week we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem!

ADULT FORUM

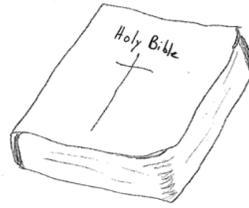
Please join us Sunday mornings before worship for a variety of studies and programs. Bring your friends! We gather in the Trinity Room at 9:30 for coffee or tea, then begin our program at 9:45 with a sharing of joys and concerns.

Spring Dates

- March 29- Palm Sunday Service 11am
- April 2- Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm
- April 3- Good Friday Service 7:30pm
- April 5- Easter Service 11am
- June 14- Picnic at Waldheim Park

Bible Bites

with Pastor Becky



Bible Bites

Have you ever heard of the “Sinner’s Bible”? Back in the early 1600s every book was printed with a typeset printing press. That meant that every single letter on every single page had to be assembled by hand before it could be printed. In 1631 the royal printers in London, Robert Berker and Martin Lucas, accidentally published a copy of the Bible with a hilarious typo. Under the 10 Commandments instead of saying, “Thou shalt not commit adultery”, it accidentally said, “Thou shalt commit adultery”. Once the typo was discovered the majority of the original copies of the Sinner’s Bible were collected and destroyed. A recent article reported that there were only 10 copies of the Sinner’s Bible left, but if you would like to see one with your very own eyes you can make your trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, where they have a copy on display for your enjoyment.

Easter Candy Fundraiser

Our annual homemade Easter candy sale will take place in the Trinity Room on March 22 and March 29 (Palm Sunday)

Peanut-rolled, peanut butter, coconut cream eggs

sold in ½ pound containers for \$10.00

An assortment of all three varieties

sold in 1 pound containers for \$20.00

Chocolate peanut clusters

sold in ½ pound containers at \$10.00

Green Team

This year, the United Church of Christ Environmental Justice Ministry has decided to make defending the Environmental Protection Agency a legislative priority. Those of us old enough to remember how dirty our world was back in the 60’s and 70’s know how vital this agency is. We lived through smoggy summer days, the Cuyahoga River catching on fire, the Hudson River a sewer of deadly dioxin waste, an elementary school built over the Love Canal toxic waste, acid rain, and a hole in the ozone layer. Through the work of the EPA a superfund was created to clean up the waste industries had dumped without heed for the consequences.

On February 12th, the Trump administration announced it was rescinding the Endangerment Finding regarding the emission of greenhouse gases. This finding, issued by the EPA in 2009, declared these gases represented a threat to human health and safety. In opposition to 130 years of science, President Trump said that climate change is a hoax. Our children and grandchildren will bear the brunt of this misguided decision.

St. John's has supported the work of the EPA with 25 members and friends signing petitions to our Representative and Senators asking them to vote in favor of a minimal cut to its funding. We had been alerted to the threat of far more drastic cuts by the Environmental Justice Ministry and are happy that funding was almost fully restored.

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- Blessing Branches Village Prophet
- Hosanna Cloaks Donkey Olives
- Jesus Palms Crowd Mount
- Colt Son



March 2025



- 3 – Julian Pyle
- 5 – Felicia Knerr
- 7 – Cole Heffelfinger
- 11 – Priscilla Bowersox
- 18 – Everett Heffelfinger
Avery Heffelfinger
- 20 – Kelly Garrigan
- 21 – Paul Quinn Sr.
- 22 – Shekira Pyle
- 25 – Keith Nash
Jacob Pyle
- 27 – Maverick Rissell
- 30 – Caryn
Bronfenbrenner
Alexis Gillenwater

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	2	3 Choir 10am Elders Meeting 7pm	4 9am Prayer Call	5 Food Bank	6	7
8	Daylight Saving Begins 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship	9	10 Choir 10am Consistory Meeting 7pm	11 9am Prayer Call	12	13	14
15	9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00am Worship Easter Candy Sale	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day Choir 10am	18 9am Prayer Call	19	20 Food Bank	21
22	9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum Easter Candy Sale	23	24 Choir 10am	25 9am Prayer Call	26	27	28
29	Palm Sunday 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum	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).