

The Disciple



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

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

Volume 26 Issue 9

September 2026

Howdy St. John's Family,

September is upon us! Children are back at school, the nights are getting cooler, and we get to talk about Issachar! Gesundheit... wait, no! That wasn't a sneeze, that was the name of the ninth son of Jacob/Israel. His name translates as "there is reward", which may have something to do with his birth. If we open up our Bibles to Genesis chapter 30, verses 14 through 18, we find this interesting little story about Leah and Rachel, the rivaling sisters and wives of Jacob. One day, Reuben, the eldest son of Jacob and Leah, was out in a field and picked some beautiful mandrake flowers for his mother, Leah. Rachel asked Leah if she could have some, and Leah replied, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" In the end, Rachel trades a night with Jacob for some of the flowers, and this is how Issachar is conceived.

We see that when Issachar is born, Leah names him "this is reward", as she exclaims, "God has given me my *hire*". Hire is translated from the Hebrew word *sakar*, which can be translated as wages, pay, or reward. In later days, the tribe of Issachar settles near Zebulan and is considered to be very academic. The Talmud, an ancient Hebrew text, implies that Issachar was more involved in academia than in any military exploits as the tribes sought to defend their territory from outside groups. That being said, 1 Chronicles 7:5 does describe the descendants of Issachar as "valiant men of might". For me, it is so fitting that the person whose name is associated with rewards is best known for learning. When we look at the book of Proverbs, we see instructions from wise teachers to students that they should act wisely, fairly, and justly. That is my lesson from Issachar, that learning and growing each day can be the greatest reward of all.

-Respectfully submitted by Rev. Becky Sausser

Sing in September 2026

- September 6
 - Hymn: The Lord Bless You and Keep You (845 in *The Worshipping Church hymnal*).
 - Reading: Numbers 6:22-27.
 - In the book of Numbers, the Lord instructs Moses to give this blessing to the Israelites on their journey through the desert. This blessing has become a beloved hymn that still speaks to our hearts today.
- September 13 (Grandparents' day)
 - Hymn #28: For the Beauty of the Earth.
 - Reading: Psalm 19:1-10.
 - This week we learn about the beauty of the earth that inspired an iconic hymn. We look at the ways that our grandparents and ancestors have taught us how truly to see this beauty.
- September 20 (Yom Kippur)
 - Hymn # 126: Angels from the Realm of Glory.
 - Reading: Psalm 148:1-14.
 - This beloved Christmas hymn was penned by John Montgomery, a man with an incredible life story with ups and downs on his journey to share his spiritual gifts.
- September 27
 - Hymn# 473: Blessed Assurance
 - Reading: Romans 8:31-39
 - Every year during September we highlight one of Fanny Crosby's incredible hymns. Today we look at *Blessed Assurance* and hear the beautiful truth that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Hoagie Fundraiser News

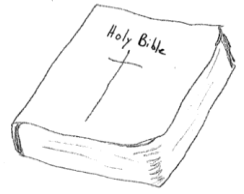
Due to continually decreasing sales, as well as a few other issues, we have made the decision to cease hoagie sales at this time.

We would like to thank our dedicated Thomson's hoagie fans for supporting our sales over the last two+ years.

The St. John's Fundraising Committee

Bible Bites

with Pastor Becky



Bible Bites

Last month was our annual “Ask In August” sermon series, where I answered questions submitted by you, the congregation! I received a question from someone in our community about the Holy Trinity; he asked, “where does the Bible list the Holy Trinity?” The truth is that the word *trinity* does not appear in the bible at all. There are a number of verses that specifically talk about our Triune God, God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit, like the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:16, or at the last supper in John 14:26. The trinity is mentioned in many epistle letters like Roman, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Titus, Hebrews, and 1 Peter, but the word *trinity* doesn’t arrive on the scene until around the second century CE. The Greek term *trias*, which means *triad*, was used by Theophilus of Antioch to describe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This term gained in popularity, and we see in 325 CE that the First council of Nicaea confirms that this is part of the doctrine of Christianity. This makes me feel so at peace because even if there isn’t a name for the meaningful relationships in our lives, it doesn’t mean they are any less important. Check out some of the verses above to learn more about our Holy Triune God!

-Respectfully submitted by Rev. Becky Sausser

Tales from the Resource Room

In the month of July, we had over a dozen people come to the resource room for help. There were some seeking food and shoes, others seeking camping equipment and bedding. There was a mix of familiar faces and new folks seeking help. Winter will be here sooner than we think, and there are a number of things that the resource room could use. Please consider donating gently used blankets, coats, and gloves. If you have the time and the talent, consider knitting or crocheting some hats and scarves! Every little bit makes a huge difference to someone in need.

Thank you!

I wanted to take a moment to thank every person who donated to provide the much needed tents for the Resource Room! The tents have been purchased, and these are tents specifically designed with homelessness in mind. These are 2-person tents that “pop up” using a flexible inner frame. When they are easily disassembled, they fit into a bag that comes with a backpack strap. The tents themselves weigh around 1 pound, making them easy to carry.

Thank you again, so much for your support!

-Respectfully submitted by Rev. Becky Sausser

A FEEL-GOOD STORY

During a recent telephone visit with one of St. John's homebound members, Marian Anderson, she shared a heart-warming story. Marian lives in a modest two-story attached double home in south Allentown near Hiram Dodd School. This summer she noticed a man carrying his little girl with her head on his shoulder. When they were passing Marian's home, he put the toddler down and she spotted Marian on her porch and headed toward her. Marian spontaneously got up, plucked a flower from a pot on the porch and met the wobbly little girl on the walkway. Much to Marian's surprise, the little girl in a small voice uttered "thank you". A day or two later the same man and girl came by this time with a young school aged boy, probably attending an elementary school class. Marian wanted to give him something. On her table she had a miniature Jesus. She brought it out to him, and he excitedly accepted it and gave her a grateful "thank you". Several days later, along came the same boy carrying a potted geranium plant, which he presented to her. She was so touched; she glowed the entire rest of the day and each time she shared the story.

Hearing this warmed my heart, being reminded that love, generosity, and gratitude still live, even among strangers.

-Nancy Kramer-Moyer

September's Special Mission Offering

Our Special Mission Offering for September is **Bethany Children's Home--- a UCC related institution.**

"Bethany Children's Home has been providing abused, neglected, and abandoned youth residential care in a safe, secure, and supportive home-like environment since 1863. Started as an orphanage, we continue to work with our community to provide children and youth a safe place to learn how to be a kid, develop life skills and help them to overcome their challenges.

In short, to develop a community where all feel welcomed and safe and have an opportunity to work to resolve issues related to their particular situation." (Bethany Children's Home)

Please consider supporting St. John's UCC's longstanding commitment to **Bethany Children's Home** with this offering that will be accepted throughout the month of September. You may do so by including it with your regular offering, using the Blue Pew Envelopes or the Donate button on the Church website. Be sure to designate it for "Bethany Children's Home". Thank you for considering helping to continue St. John's support of this vital ministry.

You also can continue to give to **Central Elementary** by using their Wish List. That list can be found in the weekly *St. John's Corresponds*. Again, thank you for your support.

Submitted by Bill Falla

Announcements

Important Dates!

- September 13 Rally Day Breakfast 9:30am

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals will resume in September, in the choir room.

Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to attend! You will get to sing with expert musicians and you will be coached by our own patient music director, Lois Mease.

Please contact Lois (loismease@gmail.com) if you have any concerns.

ADULT FORUM

Greetings! Welcome back...the summer sure flew by!

You are all once again invited to join us Sunday mornings before worship for a variety of studies and programs. And 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.

This is what we have planned for September:

September 13-Join us to kick off the year with our delicious Rally Day Breakfast!

September 20-Adult Forum not meeting.

September 27-Krista Brown-Ly from the Bradbury Sullivan Center was with us previously, when she was Acting Director, for a delightful visit. She is now Executive Director at the Center, and she will bring us an update on their community.

October 4-Pastor Becky will be joining us with the Confirmation Class for a "Crash Course on Communion." It is always a fun time when our youth join us!

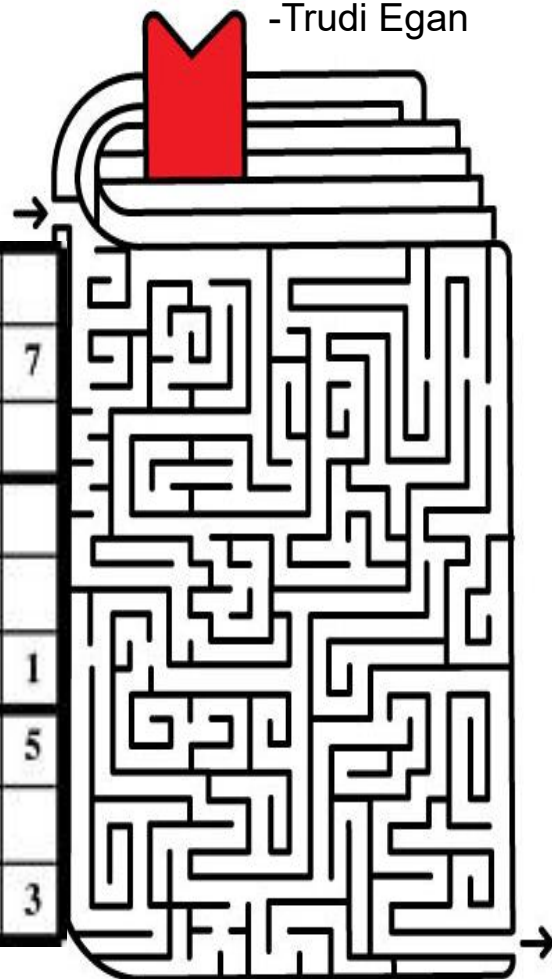
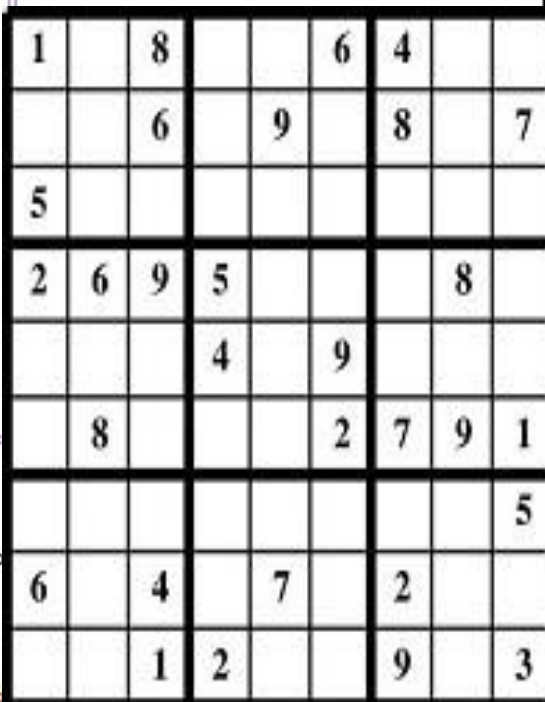
BACK TO SCHOOL

-Trudi Egan

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LESSON	PAPER	LUNCHBOX	HOMEWORK
TEACHER	CLASSROOM	REGISTER	BACKPACK
BOOKS	NOTEBOOK	DESK	RECESS
STUDENT	ERASER	PENCIL	PLAYGROUND

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September 2026



3 – Nancy Rissell
 4 – Katrina Schuler
 5 – Christina Sausser
 6 – William Falla
 9 – Alan Cloak
 12 – Cassidy Bell
 20 – Angelice Roman
 21 – Byron Cook
 27 – Marjorie Cloak

Celebrating


9/03 – Thomas and Kelly Rissell
 9/08 – Richard and Jeanette Schmoyer

9/09 – Alan and Lynn Cloak

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Elders Meeting 7pm	2 9am Prayer Call	3 Food Bank	4	5
6 11:00am Worship	7 Office Closed	8 Consistory Meeting 7pm	9 9am Prayer Call	10	11	12
13 11:00am Worship Rally Day Breakfast 9:30am	14	15	16 9am Prayer Call	17	18	19
20 11:00am Worship	21	22	23 9am Prayer Call	24	25 Food Bank	26
27 11:00am Worship	28	29	30			

Check out our website: <https://stjohnsuccallentown.org/> If you found this, contact Pastor Becky to be entered to win a gift card.
 Follow us on Facebook by searching St. John's UCC Allentown (our logo is a picture of the church)

