

The Good News Letter

February, 2018



Mission Statement

The mission of St. John's United Church of Christ is to share with our community the Gospel of God's love by the stewardship of our lives in outreach, fellowship, education, caring and worship.



Important Dates

February 4
Communion

February 10
Family movie night at 7:00pm

February 12
Consistory meeting at 6:30

February 14
Ash Wednesday service at 7:00pm
Please join the Lutheran Church

February 25
Congregational Meeting



St. John's United Church of Christ

1027 Church Street PO Box 817
Fogelsville, PA 18051

Office Phone: 610-398-7015

Church Hospital Code # 467

E-mail: stjohnsucc1@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsuccfogelsville.com

Web & Facebook Submissions:

stjohnsuccfogelsville@gmail.com



Church Staff

Pastor: Irvin Moore

Minister of Music: Dave Roth

Cell: 610-737-0530

E-mail: rothd@rcn.com or rothpiano.com

Bill Gieringer, Sexton

Anna DeAngelis, Secretary

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:30am-1:30pm

Opportunities Available

We all have talents that are given to us by God. Those talents vary. Some are able to speak in public; others feel more comfortable sharing in small groups. Some are good at organizing; others are good at carrying out directions. As shown at coffee hours, some are really good at baking. (Some are really good at eating, too.) Some feel comfortable visiting with our older—or infirm—members. There are many different ways that our talents can be used by God for the benefit of our members, our congregation and the community.

If you are comfortable speaking in public (or if you want to give it a try even though it seems scary) talk to Pastor Irv or contact the church office about being an assistant minister. If you enjoy talking to people one-on-one, consider being a greeter on a Sunday or going along with a few of our members who visit our sick and shut-ins. Good at cooking or baking? We can always use help with coffee hour and with the occasional fellowship meals we offer or providing food when we host a bereaved family after a funeral service.

If your time is limited and you want to contribute financially you can sponsor bulletins and altar flowers or make a contribution toward

coffee hour. The cost for flowers is \$35 per Sunday and bulletins for \$5 per Sunday. Thank you for sharing your talent in God's service.



Congregational Meeting

Immediately after the service, on Sunday, February 25th.we will be holding a congrega-tional meeting. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.



Pastor's Corner

It's been really strange being at home, unable to do much of anything for the last few weeks. I really missed being able to come to the office and plan Bible study sessions, sermons, do some administrative stuff and relate to people. It was kind of lonely. And I think I learned some things in the process.

I learned that it's really easy for me to feel sorry for myself. I don't like to admit that. But this time period let me see how easy is was to play the "poor me" game. I came to realize (again) how terribly self-centered that game is. And to realize that I didn't want to play. Thank you, God, for that insight.

I learned how addictive television can be. Oh, I knew that before, but this time of enforced sitting brought the message home in spades. I found myself singing the musical jingles of some commercials – even though I would never buy the products they were selling. I was shown, first hand, that advertising can "take over" my psyche. That's scary. Even scarier is the fact that I learned that I could watch even when I had better things to do. Thank you, God, for saving me from addiction to being entertained.

I learned that I had friends I didn't even know I had. Folks who I know from outside the church would call and ask if there was anything they could do. They'd show up and say, "I bet you need food. Give me a list." One brought me home

from the ER back on the 10th and showed up a week later to chat. Thank you, God, for friends.

I learned how caring and supportive St. John's really can be. Not much time would go by before someone would call and assure me that everything was in good hands here and tell me not to worry about anything. They'd fill me in on what was going on. People made phone calls for me and picked up the jobs I normally do. What a gift! "Let me know if you need anything." "You're in our prayers." Thank you, God, for this amazing congregation.

I learned that God gives us what we need, a day at a time. It may not be exactly what we want, but it is always what we need. I guess God knew that I was in need of learning how to be cared for. (And, by the way, I'm in the office this morning [1/23] and someone is dropping by to bless me with soup. How wonderful!)

That I'd be thankful for injury and pain was not something that was in the forefront of my mind, but God used pain and injury to teach me what I needed to know. Thanks to all of you for being a part of that lesson.

THANK YOU....to the congregation of St. John's for your generosity in the Christmas gift I received from the church. As last year, it was in "cash form" and has been tucked away in my savings account to help defray expenses for my annual trip to Bailey Island.

And thank you to those individuals (You know who you are.) who remembered me with gifts.

Words cannot convey the depth of my gratitude. I thank God for all of you every day.

Irv

Peace be with you,
Pastor Irv



Dutch Lunch

Please join us for lunch at the **Starlite Diner** on Thursday afternoons at 12:00 p.m. It will be Dutch Style where everyone will treat him or herself for a lunch out. We will have informal discussions of faith and life, time to share,

support, break bread together, and get to know one another.



Choir

The choir meets on a Wednesday night at 7:30pm. Even if you don't know how to sing and read music you are welcome to join the choir for fun, fellowship, and praising God.



Prayer Requests

Steven Becker, Basil Breining, Catherine Csencitz, Guy DeAngelis, Nelson Feliciano, Shelly Gieringer, John Marsteller, Jane Laudenslager, Tina Laudenslager, Nancy Reichert, George Rodenbach, Polly Snyder, Steve Warner, and Ray Ziegler.

If you or a loved one needs to be hospitalized, please inform the hospital staff that St John's UCC church code is 467. We also ask that you or a family member please notify the church office of your hospitalization when you enter and when you leave—call 610-398-7015. Thanks!



February Birthdays

- 2—Courtney Moyer
- 9—John Kleinschuster
- 10—Susan Roth
- 16 — Dean Mohr
- 17 — Leon Peters
- 17 — George Rodenbach
- 22 — Jennifer Marsteller



Capital Improvement Campaign

As you are aware, some much needed work has been done on our building. We had new windows installed on one side of the building, a new roof on the education/ office wing, and we had the exterior painted. We are grateful to God for the generosity that has been shown through contributions to the Capital Campaign. We hope that contributions to the fund will continue in the months ahead. If you would like to donate to the fund please make a check payable to St. John's UCC and write "Capital Improvement" on the subject line. Thank you.



Snow Report

In the case of inclement weather, the snow is falling inch by inch. You are wondering, will we meet for church today? Please turn to channel WFMZ or you can log onto www.wfmz.com for cancellation information. If snow is predicted for a Sunday morning, you will be contacted by a member of the consistory to tell you if we will not be having church that day. Please keep in mind that just because church is cancelled doesn't mean that the church's bills are cancelled for that week. Please consider turning your offering in the following week so St. John's can continue to provide for all of God's people. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who serve during Sunday's service as worship volunteers.

Thank you to Sue Snyder for conducting a service and finding someone else to fill-in for Pastor Moore while he was recuperating.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Joyful Noise Offering. The organizations this offering went to each month surely appreciated our donation.

Thank you to everyone who donate to the Food Pantry.



Busy Bees

The Busy Bees will be resuming activities next month. They are planning hoagie sales in March, April, and May. Details to follow.



Family Movie Night

We will be holding a family movie night on Saturday, February 10th at 7:00pm. We will be showing the movie "Jungle Book" and refreshments will be served. Bring your relatives and friends and enjoy a great evening.



February

Acolyte

February 4 – None
February 11 – None
February 18 – Andrew Laudenslager
February 25 – Emily Laudenslager

Assistant Minister

February 4 – William Gieringer
February 11 – Janet Grim
February 18 – Dean Mohr
February 25 – Marilyn Roth

Offering

February 4 – *Mark Laudenslager
Larry Moyer
February 11 – Catherine Garon
Sue Snyder
February 18 – Jeff Grim & Marilyn Roth

February 25 – Catherine Garon
Suzanne Reigel

***Responsible for supplying bread and for communion.**



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets in the family room at 9:00 AM every Sunday. We have decided rather than studying the Gospel lesson for the following Sunday, we will be studying the entire book of Mark. We made this change on December 3rd when we studied chapter 1, verse 1. You are welcome to join us for any or all of these sessions. Discussion is lively as we try to relate Jesus' words to our church and to our own lives.



Consistory Notes

January 15, 2018

- 1) **Pastor's Report** - In the absence of Rev. Moore,
Larry reported for him.
 - a) Pastor Irv will need to be seated for our services for a few weeks.
 - b) He has several thank you notes that he will give to Sue from Bethany, the food pantry, Christmas fund, etc.
- 2) **Old Business – Issues** -
 - a) Church usage fees – All seem satisfied with the fees as they now stand.
 - b) 2017 Audit Committee set up – Catherine Garon, Rose Laudenslager, Donna Mohr and (Kay as alternate). Catherine told the group that her employer told her that new rules prevent her from reviewing our insurance policy and serving on the audit committee and Consistory. She will serve on the audit committee and Consistory.

3) **New Business Report** -

a) Larry handed out the packets of information for 2018.

b) THIS YEARS THEME "GROWING WITH GOD TODAY" – Larry said that he would like to see

this

as our theme for the new year. It seems to encompass mind, body, and spirit.

c) February Cong. Meeting prepare committee and finance reports – Marlene will prepare a Treasurer’s report to summarize our financial year.

4) **Outreach Events** -

a) Larry discussed having a "Movie Night" in February. It was decided that we would have a family movie night here at the church on Saturday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. Larry will bring "Jungle Book".

b) Easter Breakfast April 1, 2018 - Welcome ALL! - Easter Egg Hunt with Lutherans.

c) Holy Humor Sunday - April 8th 2018.

e) Iron Pigs Game – Nancy Moyer has some dates.

5) **Christian Education** - Great Job!!!

6) **Kiva report** – Initially, \$1,750 was deposited into KIVA. Total amount lent over time is \$9,500. We have made 322 loans and supported 67 countries. There is currently \$998.45 in outstanding loans and \$22.66 available for lending.

7) **Media Tech** -

a) ADVERTISE OUR EVENTS! MARKETING - Tom said that for 85 cents a line we can advertise in the Parkland Press and reach 8 publication areas. He will place an ad to run continuously to advertise our services. Additionally, we will have Anna place ads for special events. This will replace our "Movies in the Park" sponsorship which did not bring in any new members over a 2-year period.

8) **Property Issues** -

a) Furnace went out, Water heater failure and frozen water pipe outside!!!

**Estimate about \$1000 to \$1500.00 (three visits and water heater replacement).

b) New Sign will help to make us visible to road traffic, info from Tom. Tom is getting a bid for an adaptation of our current sign.

c) Crazy spot light – Jeff said that we may have the problem fixed. He is looking into a way to light our front stained glass windows at night.

9) **Treasurer’s Report** - November and December, 2017

a) Monthly report - As of December 31, 2017 –

General checking account had a balance of \$18,395.28. Building Fund had a balance of \$463.06. All Benevolence funds have been sent to the Conference for the year. Anna, Dave,

and

Bill were given \$25 gift cards as a Christmas gift.

b) Capital Fund – Balance of \$2,316.75. A future

project will be work to be done on our driveway

and parking lot.

c) Memorial Fund – Balance of \$24,182.09.

d) Endowment Report – Tom reported that as of

January 1, 2017, the balance in this account was

\$85,102.37. As of January 15, 2018, the balance

in these funds was \$112,184.00.



Some Humor

What do you call a snowman in the summer?

A puddle.

Where does a snowman keep his money?

In a snow bank.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Snowflakes.

Where do snowmen get the weather report?

Holy E-mail

I have been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Catlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer.

Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer.

Lead us not into temptation, she prayed," but deliver us some e-mail. Amen".

How Cold was it ?

It was so cold . . .
the squirrels in the park were throwing
themselves at an electric fence!
It was so cold . . .
Grandpa's teeth were chattering - in the glass!
It was so cold . . .
Starbucks was serving coffee on a stick!
It was so cold . . .
words froze in the air. If you wanted to hear
what someone said, you had to grab a handful
of sentences and take them in by the fire!

