

The Good News Letter



2017



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.



November 5

Communion

Welcome new members

Hoagie orders due

November 11

Halupki sale

Orders due by October 31

November 12

Old Reformed Style Service

November 13

Consistory Meeting @ 6:30

November 15

Hoagie pick-up

November 22

Thanksgiving eve service @ 7:30

November 23 & 24

Office closed



Change Clock



Don't forget to change your clock before you go to bed on November 4. We fall back one hour.

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.



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.



November Birthdays

- 2 – Lauren Sobczak
- 9 – Lou Edelman
- 9 – Nathan Kleinschuster
- 21 – Nicole Bowser

November Anniversaries

- 10 – Jennifer and John Marstellar
- 25 – Guy and Anna DeAngelis



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. However, (There’s always a “however”) we hope that contributions to the fund will continue in the months ahead. There will always be work needing to be done. So – 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.



Prayer Requests

Catherine Csencitz, Nelson Feliciano, John Marstellar, Jane Laudenslager, LeRoy Lieberman, 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!



November

Assistant Minister

- November 5 – Mallory Cope
- November 12 – Dean Mohr
- November 19 – Marilyn Roth
- November 22 – Frank Garon
- November 26 –

Offering

- November 5 – *Catherine Garon
Larry Moyer
- November 12 – Suzanne Reigel & Sue Snyder
- November 19 – Larry Moyer & Tom Sobczak
- November 22 – Marilyn Roth and Susan Roth
- November 26 – Suzanne Reigel
Catherine Garon

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



Joyful Noise Offering

The Joyful Noise Offering for November will go to Victory House of the Lehigh Valley. A ministry providing shelter to homeless men who suffer from addiction abuse. They also provide the residents with training that enables and the possibilities of a New Life.

The Joyful Noise Offering for December will go to Love Ran Red Foundation. A Christian-based non-profit dedicated to helping adults with Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder. They provide essential living assistance once aging parents can no longer care for them.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets in the family room at 9:00 AM every Sunday. We will be studying the Gospel lesson for the Sunday following the day we meet.

- Here is the schedule through November 19:
- 11/5: Matthew 25:1-13 (The 10 bridesmaids)
- 11/12: Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the talents)
- 11/19: Matthew 25:31-46 (The last judgement).

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.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT – A SUGGESTED GUIDE FOR PERSONAL DEVOTION

Read Matthew 16:24-26 and 20:20-28

The term “poor in spirit” is sometimes better understood by remembering what it is not. It is the opposite of all self-seeking, all eagerness for recognition or preferment or prestige, all selfishness of desire. It is not “thinking less of yourself” but is rather “thinking of yourself less.”

Questions to think about:

- Have I been eager to do or to have many things? Would a simpler way of living be more pleasing to God?
- Have I been anxious to get credit for the good things that I do, including good things that I do for God?
- If my life were put to the test of suffering in some way for my service to or faith in God, would I be able to handle it in trust and faith?
- Is my main concern to serve God through serving others? Or am I eager to have my own way and pleased myself through deeds of service?

Prayer:

O God, you understand the thoughts and desires of all your children, give me, I pray, the ability to be honest in self-evaluation. Take away the veils of self-esteem and self-seeking and self-pity that can dim my sight. Let me see, without excuse, the person I am and the motives that drive me.

Then, O Lord, in your mercy forgive my eagerness to possess, my longing to be praised, and my desire to lord it over others even in doing the work to which you call me. Let me be content to do your will and ask no reward. Give me more of the spirit of Him who, in outflowing love, came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and who gave his life for me. In his name I pray. Amen.

PASTOR'S LETTER

I was cleaning out some old files at home one day recently and I ran across a quote from a man named Phillips Brooks. Brooks was an Episcopal clergyman who lived in the mid to late 19th century in Boston. He had the reputation of being a really great preacher. He is also the man who wrote the words for the Christmas carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The quote I found was this: “It is almost as presumptuous to think you can do nothing as to think you can do everything.” That got me thinking.

It's true that we are powerless over lots of things: the weather, world political events, the economy – you can add to the list. Lots of times we're powerless over the other people in our lives. We tell our kids how to do this or that and they do as they please. We marry someone and think that we can change some things about them we like less than other things – and we discover that is something that might not happen. Sometimes we even feel powerless over ourselves. That chocolate ice cream in the freezer is calling my name.

And while powerlessness is part of the human situation – we are not powerless over everything. The secret is to forget about controlling what is not in our control and work with the things we can do. God does not expect us (as individuals or congregations) to do what we cannot do.

We can choose in our private lives or our church lives to adopt positive attitudes. We can choose to study the Scripture. We can choose to pray and meditate. We can attend worship. We can help others. Above all, we can choose to “stick it out.” We can choose to be committed.

Josh Billings (Real name: Henry W. Shaw) was a 19th century writer and humorist. He once said, "Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there." That's what Christians can be: people who stick to their commitment to God in Christ. Jesus told a story about a woman who was seeking justice from a judge who really didn't care. She pestered him until he finally gave up and answered her request. Paul tells us never to grow weary in our prayers.

Knowing what we can do and recognizing that God stands beside us can give us the strength to face life and never give up – on life, on ourselves and on God.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Irv



Busy Bees

Our next hoagie sale will be in November. Orders are due November 5 with a pick-up date of November 15. You will have your choice of either Italian or Ham with or without onion. Price of a hoagie is \$5.00. To place an order, see Marilyn Roth, Marge Cope, or Beulah Snyder. Marilyn can be reached at 610-395-3083, Marge can be reached at 610-395-0002, or Beulah at 610-285-6608.

There will be a halupki sale on November 11. They are \$3.00 each. Orders may be given to Marilyn Roth or you can reach her at 610-395-3083. Orders are due by October 31.

We will be holding our annual candy sale from November 1 through November 19. Please see Beulah Snyder or call her at 610-285-6608 for further information or to place your order.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who bought or sold hoagies.

Thank you to Dave Roth along with vocalist Nancy Reed and bass player Paul Rostock for their jazz service.

Thank you to our assistant ministers and ushers.

Thank you to Meta Binder and Erica Ortlund for volunteering to fill-in for Sandy and for helping in the nursery.



Consistory Notes

October 9, 2017

1) Pastor's Report -

Christmas Service- choice since it falls on a Monday – We will ask what the congregation prefers at the October 22 Congregational meeting. The Memorial Service will be held on October 29. Sue Snyder will send out the letters of invitation to family and friends of those who have passed away during this past year. Sandy Sobczak is preparing bags with candles to be given to the family members.

2) Correspondence-

A letter was received from Heifer International Project asking for donations. This information will be given to Nancy Moyer to consider for a Joyful Noise monthly donation. Kuhnsville Area Lions Club sent a donation for their use of our church for their meetings. Information was received from Computer Helper Publishing for renewal. Marlene says that we need updates for Church Windows. By **Motion** of Sue Snyder, seconded by Tom Sobczak, Consistory approved the expenditure of \$320 for renewal of our computer updates.

3) Old Business - Issues

a) Outside painting has been completed. A \$6,400 payment was made in June. Another payment of \$6,600 was made in September. We have not received a final bill.

b) Consistory Member Discussion – We need a new member to replace Susan Roth who is stepping down after the December meeting.

4) New Business and Events -

a) Memorial Service, October 29, 2017.

- b) New Membership Service. November 5, 2017.
- c) Old Style Reformed Service, November 12, 2017 time - 10:30am.
- d) Thanksgiving Eve Service November 22,2017 at St John's UCC at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Nelson will preach.
- e) Advent decorating of church, December 2, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. - live tree for Social Hall.
- f) Community Tree Lighting, December 3,2017 6:30 p.m. reserved for us. Thanks Jeff.
- g) Lions Christmas Party, December 9, 2017. Busy Bees have agreed to serve the meal.

5) Outreach Events -

- a) Outreach - Miracle League date October 25, 2017 set up 4:30pm, 6:00 start.
- b) Outreach – Trunk or Treat date October 27, 2017 at Strohl’s parking lot.
- c) Outreach Letter to be mailed for the holidays. Sandy Sobczak is working on it.
- d) Continue to collect SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!!

6) Christian Education -

- a) Sunday School and Nursery Teachers needed to substitute, please speak with Sandy.

7) Media Tech

- a. Website & Facebook. Great Job Lauren !!!

8) Property Report

- a) Parking Lot, needs sealing, Get quote. Can we do this in small sections??
- a) New Sign will help to make us visible to road traffic. On hold for now.
- b) Social Hall A/C unit - on hold for now

9) Treasurer’s Report

- a) General Monthly report - September income in the general fund was \$4,890.33. Total income was \$6,999.30. Total expenses were \$46,272.48. The difference in income and expenses was offset by the transfer on monies from the Capital Campaign to pay for windows, roofing, and painting. One large expense from the general fund was payment of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,055.75. The Joyful Noise offering once again went to the Red Cross in light of needs for hurricane relief. Benevolence monies collected and sent for hurricane relief totaled \$580.
- b) Capital Campaign balance is \$132.46; Memorial Fund balance is \$23,859.03; and Endowment Funds total \$105,767.00.

For the good and welfare of the Church, around the room??

Tom talked about the possibility of lighting our stained glass windows at night. It could be done with LED spotlights. Mark didn’t think that it would be too difficult to install. It would make us visible from the street at night.

Marlene talked about a program that is being started at Ziegel’s Church for housing the homeless on a temporary basis.



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