

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.

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

We will be hold a congregation meeting on Sunday, October, 22, 2016. Please plan on attending this important meeting.



St. John's United Church of Christ

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October 1

Communion

October 8

Hoagie orders due

October 9

Consistory meeting at 6:30

October 15

Jazz Service

October 18

Hoagie pick-up

October 22

Congregational Meeting

October 25

Miracle League Bash

October 27

Trunk or Treat

October 29

Memorial Service





Capital Improvement Campaign

As you are aware some much needed work has been done on our building (new windows and a new roof on the education/office wing) and some is being done as this is written (painting the exterior). 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 Marsteller, Jane Laudenslager, Nancy Reichert, George Rodenbach, Polly Snyder, Kenneth Strohl, 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!



October Birthdays

- 6 – Betty Snyder
- 14 – Tina Laudenslager
- 17 – Raymond Harvey Huber
- 19 – Natalie Conner
- 24 – Kenneth E. Strohl
- 25 – Jane Laudenslager

October Anniversaries

20 – Wanda & Bruce Fehnel

27 – Dave and Susan Roth



Schedule

Anna will be out the office on Tuesday, October 3, and Wednesday, October 4. She will be working at home on the calendars for next year. She is also planning on be in the office extra time on the 3 remaining days. Anna will be out the office on Thursday, October 12 and not sure of her schedule on Friday, October 13 due to Guy having a surgical procedure.



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.



October

Assistant Minister

- October 1 – Zachary Edelman
- October 8 – Sue Snyder
- October 15 – William Gieringer
- October 22 – Janet Grim
- October 29 – Frank Garon

Offering

- October 1 – *Larry Moyer & Susan Roth
- October 8 – Mark Laudenslager
Sue Snyder
- October 15 – Tom Sobczak & Marilyn Roth
- October 22 – Catherine Garon
Suzanne Reigel
- October 29 – Mark Laudenslager
Susan Roth

*Responsible for supplying bread and for

communion.



For the next few months I am planning to use this space to provide a brief devotional/Bible study that anyone can use for their private prayer/meditation time. The themes for the devotionals come from the Gospel according to Matthew – especially from what is commonly known as the “Sermon on the Mount.” They are adapted from a series of devotionals I found in a book I discovered in my mother’s library after she died. I’ve used them and found them helpful. Perhaps you will, too.

SEEK GOD’S KINGDOM

But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Matthew 6:33.

Read Matthew 6:25-33. This passage contains no suggestion that Jesus thought things like food and clothing and shelter are unimportant. God knows we need these things. What Jesus was talking about was making these things so important that our lives are cluttered with anxieties and God’s Kingdom and will are forgotten. Jesus saw things in their true proportions.

Have I been so concerned about physical needs – or imagined needs – that I have been in a dither about them?

Have I trusted God to see me through the perplexities of everyday life and work?

Have I stopped long enough to thank God for his care, not only for the birds and flowers, but also for me?

Have I put God’s Kingdom first?

Prayer: God of all goodness, God who always cares for your children, forgive the littleness of my faith and the self-centeredness of my life. Burdened with things to be done and perplexed with anxieties, I have too often forgotten you and your Kingdom.

But you are always at hand to guide, to guard and to come to me when I turn to you.

Help me, Lord, to put away fretfulness and worry, for you know my need. Teach me that what I must have you will supply and what I cannot have you will help me to cease desiring. Help me always to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness. And help those I love, especially _____ and _____, that they may be led to peace of soul through lives focused on you and your grace and goodness. Through Christ my Lord. Amen.

SOME BUSY MONTHS AHEAD

Our Sunday morning schedule through October and November is filled with services that you may not want to miss.

Our Jazz Worship will be on October 15. We will have 2 guests, Nancy Reed, a vocalist, and Paul Rostock, a bassist who was with us last year. Dave, of course, will be at the piano. The point of this service is to show us ways in which we can praise God that are out of the ordinary, but nevertheless valid and vital.

Our annual congregational meeting will follow worship on October 22.

Some of you will remember our Memorial Sunday service last October. The date for that service this year is October 29. During that service, we will remember and celebrate the lives of our members and friends who have died since October of 2016. The service is a celebration of life – here and in eternity.

We are planning and hoping to receive new members on November 5.

November 12 will be a service using the order of worship (the liturgy) of the German Reformed Church (one of our direct ancestors in the faith) that was used in the late 19th and early to mid-twentieth century. For some of us it will be a trip “down memory lane,” for others, something old, yet new.

We will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Eve service in our sanctuary at 7:30 PM on November 23. Pastor Nelson Quinones will be the preacher for the evening.

Advent begins on December 3.

Please join us for these special Sundays.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Irv



Busy Bees

Our next hoagie sale will be in October. Orders are due October 8 with a pick-up date of October 18. 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 Marge Cope, or Beulah Snyder. Marge can be reached at 610-395-0002, or Beulah at 610-285-6608.



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:
- 10/1: Matthew 21:33-46 (Parable of the wicked tenants)
- 10/8: Matthew 22:1-14 (Parable of the wedding banquet)
- 10/15: Matthew 22:15-22 (Paying taxes to Caesar)
- 10/22: Matthew 22:33-46 (The great commandment)
- 10/29: Matthew 23:1-12 (Scribes and Pharisees denounced)
- 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.



Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 1, 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 local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors In Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the US. Neighbors In Need helps make another world possible. Please give generously.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who bought or sold hoagies.

Thank you to our assistant ministers and ushers.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Joyful Noise offering.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the food bank.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Miracle League Bash and Trunk or Treat events. Also to everyone who participated in these events.



Community Service Events

Trunk or Treat will be on Friday, October 27th from 6 to 8pm. We will meet in the Strohl's parking lot at 5pm to set up.

The Miracle League Halloween Bash will be held on Wednesday, October 25th. Set up time is 4:30pm and the event begins at 6:00pm.

We are in need of candy and snacks for both of these events.

Anyone interested in participating please see Sandy, Marlene, or Nancy.

Remember these Community Service Events are part of our Outreach Program. We need the support and involvement of the members of the congregation to make them successful.



Consistory Notes

September 11, 2017

1) **Pastor's Report** – The Jazz Service will be on October 15 with vocalist Nancy Reed and bass player Paul Rostoc. A couple of ideas for outreach might be a blood mobile or an electronics recycling. Communication was received from Bethany Children's Home thanking us for our donation of a jewelry armoire for their upcoming Over the Edge event. Sue Snyder volunteered to serve on the Women's Advisory Committee at Bethany Children's Home. Thanksgiving Eve service will be in our church with Rev. Nelson preaching. Christmas this year falls on a Monday. Some discussion was held regarding how many services to have and when to have them. No final decision was made. It was decided to ask how congregants felt about it this coming Sunday.

2) **Correspondence** -

- a) It was decided to send a \$100 donation to the Christine P. Dech Scholarship Fund at Moravian College in memory of Rev. John Dech's daughter.
 - b) A thank you note and Staples gift card was received from Girl Scout Troop #6093 thanking us for allowing them to meet in our church. All of the girls have graduated high school and headed off for college. A thank you letter was received from Phoebe Ministries thanking us for our gift of \$90.00. A letter was also received from the American Red Cross thanking us for our donation of \$159.16.
- 3) **Old Business – Issues** -
- a) Movies in the park was very well attended, Kids loved us!! We got several new e-mail addresses and will send church newsletters to them.
 - b) Joint Service/Picnic was a success. A beautiful day!
 - c) Roof is finished; Painting of the church will start shortly.
- 4) **New Business and Events** -
- a) New Membership Service. November 5, 2017 – Not confirmed yet.
 - b) Congregational Meeting, October 22, 2017 – Larry will prepare an agenda, and Tom Sobczak will run the meeting in Larry's absence.
 - c) Visitation of all but one of the shut-ins was completed in June. It is time to begin visiting once again.
 - d) Memorial Service, October 29, 2017 for those that we have lost during the past year.
 - e) Old Style Reformed Service, November 12, 2017.
 - f) Consistory Member Discussion – Susan Roth will be stepping off of the Consistory at the end of 2017. A replacement will be needed.
 - g) Lions Christmas Party, December 9, 2017.
 - h) Community Tree Lighting, December 3, 2017 in the Fogelsville Park.
 - i) Advent decorating, December 2, 2017 at 1:00.
- 5) **Outreach Events** -
- a) Miracle League date October 25, 2017 set

up 4:30pm, 6:00 start.

- b) Trunk or Treat date October 27, 2017 at Strohl's parking lot.
- c) Outreach Letter to be mailed for the holidays.
- d) Continue to collect SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!! Larry will supply a tote in order to continually collect school supplies. There are at least 100 children in the Fogelsville School that could use some help.

6) **Christian Education** -

- a) Rally Day Planning. September 17th. Sundaes after church during Coffee Hour.
- b) Sunday School and Nursery Teachers needed to substitute, please speak with Sandy.

7) **Media Tech** -

- a) Website & Facebook, Look for Movies in the Park pictures!! Lauren is doing a wonderful job. Don't forget to go to the web site and sign up for Amazon Smile.

8) **Property Report** -

- a) Parking Lot, needs sealing,
- b) Property committee will address- Fire inspection, couple of issues. One light still needs to be fixed.
- c) Discussion of A/C, E.F. Laudenslager quote – A couple of quotes were very high on repairs and one recommended replacement. Larry has a friend that is going to look at the units.

9) **Treasurer's Report** -

- a) General Monthly report - Checking account balance at the end of August was \$4,340.71. General Fund receipts totaled \$4,234.80. Total expenses were \$12,201.37. Money was moved from the Capital Account to make payments for the roof and windows.
- b) Capital Campaign (current balance - \$28,829.00), Memorial (current balance - \$22,908.53) and Endowment Fund (current balance is \$103,756.00.
- c) Marlene will prepare a financial report for the congregational meeting.
- d) Search for Audit Committee – Catherine Garon will serve. Rose Laudenslager and Dean Mohr will be asked to help.

AN OLD TIMER'S PRAYER

Lord, keep me from the habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and every occasion.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details — give me the wings to get to the point.

I ask for the grace to listen to the tales of other's pains.

Help me to endure them with patience. But seal my kips on my own aches and pains – they are increasing, and my love for rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I might be wrong.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but becoming a bitter old timer would be a tragedy after all these years.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it at all – but you know, Lord, I want a few friends around me in the end.
Amen.



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

