

On the Journey ... at St. John's

July
2021

St. John's United Church of Christ
538 E. Thomas St.
Coopersburg, PA 18036
610-282-3310

Volume 22 Issue 7

DEAR ST. JOHN'S FRIEND,

We know you don't need to be told one more time what a strange year and a half this church has been through. So, please take this as a friendly reminder that, through it all, we still need to take care of basic things.

First, the members of your Church Council are grateful for your faithfulness in supporting the church with your tithes and offerings. Through 2020 and the winter months, giving has been strong, and St. John's has been able to meet not only its financial obligations but to foster new missions of service to the community. Think of the Mask Force project, which gave more than 20,000 face masks to health-care and other front-line workers. Think of the hundreds of lunches we made for folks who depend on the Emergency Shelter in Bethlehem. And then there is our long-time support of Betty Lou's Pantry and the Blessing Box that folks use almost every day.

But now that summer is here, we see that we are facing a familiar problem. When summer comes, attendance at worship decreases. That happens in good years and bad. Of course, all church bills and expenses continue. That leaves Council with few options. We don't want to draw down our investment account to meet current expenses. That's like tapping your IRA to pay the electric bill. So, this is a plea for everyone to continue to send your gifts and tithes even when you are away. Your faithfulness in giving all those months that COVID-19 closed us down was wonderful. Now, just when things are getting back to normal, please continue to support the church financially. As a reminder, there are ways to do that besides putting your envelopes in the offering plate. The Postal Service will deliver them to the church for you, and if you combine a few weeks' gifts, you save on stamps! Or, go to the church website – stjohnscoopersburg.org -- and click the green GIVE button. You can make a one-time gift with your credit card or you can set up an ongoing, regular tithe.

As members of Council, we count all of you at the top of the blessings that God has given St. John's. Remember, this isn't Council's church. It isn't the Conference's church. It isn't even the pastor's church. This church belongs to Jesus, our savior. Let's all work together to continue to continue our mission of service to the community and sharing the good news of the Gospel.

Yours truly,

Muriel Moore
Elliott Bamberger
Marc Bamberger
Paul Belke
Marlene Ruby
Glenn Kranzley

JULY BLESSINGS!

Praise God that we are able to continue to relax Covid-19 guidelines. We are still practicing some precautions to ensure that everyone feels safe and secure in our building. You will probably come across a drum set in our church parlor in July and part of August. Council approved renting the building to The Lesson Center. We are going to have young musicians practicing and holding a band camp in August. This group performs at Muskifest in August. We will share their information as we receive it. (Please refrain from providing drum solos during worship!)

We also are in discussions of welcoming in an established veterans support group called COMPASS. Once the established group gets settled they will be welcoming participation of veterans and “civilians.” I will be sharing more information and education on the group as we move forward.

As one of the ways we want to be good stewards of our church is to continue to look for groups to rent our building, especially if we can partner with them in a new way to serve the community. Please feel free to recommend our building as a possible meeting place.

July is the celebration of the United Church of Christ General Synod. What is this? It is the national meeting of all of the UCC churches. This year I am a delegate representing the Penn Northeast Conference (our conference) The meeting is to be held entirely on line this year. If you would like more information on how you can check it out, please reach out to me. The synod lasts for a week. What happens at synod? This is where the national officers set the direction of the denomination. It is also where churches or groups of churches can bring resolutions. Resolutions are positions on various justice issues. Delegates vote on these issues. The unique part of this is each individual church can accept or reject these proposals. I have never participated in a synod before. I have not always been happy with the direction of the denomination and someone I greatly respect called me out on complaining. They asked how I was constructively participating in the process that sets the direction. So, I am directly participating this year.

Please mark your calendar. We are having a church picnic this year! The date is August 8th with a rain date of the 15th. It will be potluck! Once again Betty has agreed to host the picnic in her yard. We will begin the day with a short worship and then enjoy a time of fellowship!

Pastor Teresa

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROTOCOLS

Approved by Council 07/01/21

Once again we are taking additional steps to relax our Covid-19 guidelines. Masks are no longer required in the building. A few members who have severe health issues may choose to wear masks. Please be respectful and practice social distancing around them. We continue to encourage everyone to use hand sanitizer, and if you are feeling ill, please stay home on that particular Sunday. We will not have greeters handing out material but will start to have someone present to verbally greet people as they enter the building.

We will not be passing the peace. We will not be passing plates. The water fountain will not be opened. Bottled water will still be available.

We will be slowly introducing singing once again.

Also, because of space issues, we will not be going to Fellowship Hall to worship if the weather is warm. We will still be recording worship services.



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is now available through the app tithe.ly. Go to St. John's website, click on give, and then follow the cues. Credit or debit cards are accepted on our secure site. An email receipt of your giving will be sent to you.



JULY MILESTONES TO CELEBRATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3 Carol Bortz
- 4 Bill Knittle
- 5 Silas Humphreys
- 16 Cheryl Urmy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 11 Paul and Linda Belke

Please help keep this listing up-to-date by contacting the office with additions and/or corrections! Thank you!

NEW DISCUSSION GROUP FORMING

Greetings! I would like to get an adult study group together once again. I need some information from you to help me plan. You can drop off this form or email me your answers. I am looking to start soon.

Your Name _____

Topic you might be interested in: (book study, bible study, discussion group)

Preference: In person or Zoom. Zoom is so easy to use if you have a computer. I can even give you a personal lesson. The advantage of Zoom is that I can record the session so if you miss one, you can watch at a later date. In person we will be following St. John's UCC Health and Wellness protocols. There is an advantage of in-person discussion too. _____

Best times for you to meet: (daytime, evening, after church on Sunday)



CARDS FOR SHUT-INS

Send a Little Love

A group of St. John's members are in an ongoing campaign of reaching out to shut-ins and others who are struggling with significant stress.

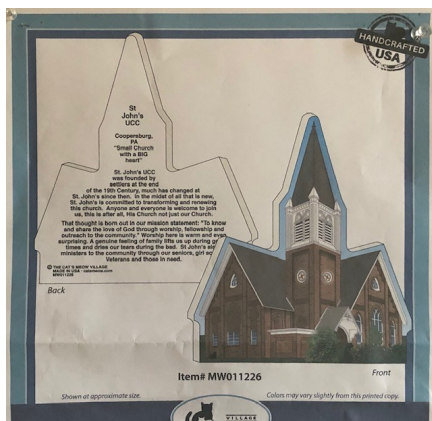
They are sending cards and writing notes to hurting members of our church family. This program was initially conceived last year among a women's group. There is no reason it should be limited to women or to those who were present at the meeting. It is open to anyone who wants to enrich the lives of someone less fortunate.



Cards, stamps, and names will be provided. If you have not already signed up but would like to join us in spreading a little love and cheer, please email me to sign up at jmatsinger@ptd.net or contact the church.

CAT'S MEOW STATUES

We are taking orders for Cat's Meow Statues of our church. The cost is \$20. Please contact Linda Belke at LThomer712@gmail.com or contact the church office.



If you are looking to give back in a small way, check out <https://www.blackoutcoffee.com>

This is some of the best coffee ever! (From Paul Belke) and with every purchase they support our troops or give you the opportunity to say thank you to our troops overseas by donating coffee.

Check them out on the internet!



**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR WEBSITE
(STJOHNSCOOPERSBURG.ORG) OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
(ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, COOPERSBURG)
HAS UP-TO-THE-MINUTE CHURCH INFORMATION**

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY

Needs are:



Boxed foods such as cereal, meat helper, macaroni and cheese.

For our own Blessing Box we need socks, preferably over the ankle.



WE ARE PART OF THE AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM!

This is the way the corporation of Amazon.com gives back to the community. Your Prime membership and passwords stay the same and are not shared. .05% of every sale goes to the church.

Below is the link to take you directly there.

Any questions, speak with Pastor Teresa. Her email is

RevTeresaMartin@outlook.com <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6286946>

ALTAR FLOWERS

God has truly blessed our world with flowers, especially this spring. Flowers on the altar are one way we can give back to Him some of the beauty. Won't you please consider sponsoring a Sunday or two by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. You can either bring your own or drop an envelope marked "flowers" in the offering plate with \$20.00 in it. Either way please sign up so we know ahead of time. Thanks from Betty



VESPERS

Thank you for your support for the past Vespers. God willing, we will have a full schedule beginning in the Fall.

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www.stjohnsucccoop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR MISSION:

To know and share the love of God through worship,
fellowship and outreach to the community.

