

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

September  
2018

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

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## Random Thoughts from the Pastor

September 2nd we move to Sunday Service at 10am. This is a permanent change! Sunday School begins at 9 am. We will start at the beginning with the book "Twelve Ordinary Men." If you would like to join us please let me know.

Thank You to all who have held Keith and me in prayer during his health issues. We are slowly making changes to his health regime to get him on his feet!

September 15th is Coopersburg Community Day. We are going to have a table/tent as usual. We will be sharing information and giving out free Bibles. If you can help for a two-hour window, there is a sign up sheet in the church lobby.

We have been in discussions with Harvest Baptist about a joint Sunday School time. They are more than willing to incorporate "our" kids with theirs. If you would like to sign family members up please speak to Pastor Teresa. We will incorporate a children's time into our worship and the kids will go to Sunday School at 10:45 and not be done till close to 11:30. That means parents/grandparents will need to wait around a few minutes till they are done.

Vespers resume Sunday Sept 16. We need help with fellowship items, greeters, readers, etc. Again, a sign up sheet is in the church entrance way.

Sunday September 30th we are having our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates join us for worship and fellowship. We will have a special coffee hour afterwards. (She is allergic to tomatoes and needs a gluten free menu)

The Coopersburg Halloween Parade is Sunday October 14th. I would like to get a crew together to sell hotdogs, hot sausages and beverages after the event in our church front yard. I would need help from about 2:30-5 pm. This is a chance for us to make our presence known in the community. If you can help out, please speak to Pastor Teresa. Everything with our rental with Harvest Baptist seems to be going exceedingly well! We have not hit any major issues.

We are also working with our new treasurer. It is important that if you submit anything for reimbursement that you have a copy of a receipt with a voucher. If you have any questions please speak to Pastor Teresa or John Ruby.

Stay tuned, our fall schedule is very full of activities and fun!

September 2nd our Theme is Work for Christ.

Beginning Sept 9th we move into a new worship series. This will be a four-week series, with each week focusing on one aspect of Transformed & Transforming (Live and Love Like Jesus) : transformation, discipleship, leadership, and missional engagement.

Blessings  
Pastor Teresa

## FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings,

It seems like I have been involved with church business forever. Seventeen months as Chair of the Search Committee and now two years as Council President. These commitments have afforded me more exposure for things said or done than I would see from a pew. The same holds true for the church as we try new things. The more we do can expose us to scrutiny. Perhaps expectations were not met; the outcomes may not have been worth the effort, or upon further review, something needed to be tweaked.

I do understand my shortcomings. There are things I wished I had done differently and certainly done another way to express myself. Check with Craig Thatcher if you would like a list of stupid John Ruby quotes. A church member suggested I was a loose cannon. Guilty as charged. It's that scrutiny thing for trying a lot of stuff.

I left for church the other Sunday not sure if once inside I would need to duck. Some unsettling events had just transpired. I was very concerned about how some people would interact with me.

Segue to a book written by Nadia Bolz-Weber titled *Pastrix* or "The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint." Pastor Nadia says "This community (church) will disappoint them. It's a matter of when, not if. We will let them down or I will say something stupid and hurt their feelings. I then invite them on this side of their inevitable disappointment to decide if they'll stick around to see what happens. If they choose to leave when we don't meet their expectations, they won't get to see how the grace of God can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failure, and that's something just too beautiful and too real to miss. *Welcome to House for All Sinners and Saints. We will disappoint you.*"

Turned out my fears were unfounded. A conversation or two took away that finger I envisioned was pointed right at me. Later I received an embrace and a private message whispered in my ear that everything is all right. On my way home I gave thanks and praise to God for filling in those holes as indeed, it was too beautiful and real to miss.

Grace and Peace,

John Ruby

## **EVENING VESPERS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER – SAVE THE DATES**

We are so excited to be beginning our third year of Evening Vespers. We are blessed to have wonderfully talented musicians to guide these special moments of respite in our Sanctuary. They ALL enthusiastically responded immediately to our invitation. You will recognize many of these musicians and have the opportunity to meet some whom you may not have heard before. The music promises to be diversified with each musician bringing their own unique style with great passion and spirit. ENJOY and bring a friend or neighbor.

The dates, themes and musicians are below. We will have small flyers for “refrigerator reminders” available and will hand them out during Coopersburg Community Day.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Musician</b>
<b><u>2018</u></b>		
SEP 16	Pause and Gather Fresh Strength	Lou Franco
OCT 21	Spirit of Life	Joanna Mell
NOV 18	Gratitude	Steve Geiger
DEC 16	Christmas Promises	KATO (Pat & Craig Kastelnik)
<b><u>2019</u></b>		
JAN 20	Chart a New Course	Craig Thatcher
FEB 17	Awaiting in Grace	Carol Broughton
MAR 10	Strong and Tender	-to be confirmed-
APR 14	New Awakening	Maggie Spike (Maggie & Eric Gerner)
MAY 19	Imagine – Fulfill Hidden Promises	John Carelli
JUN 9	Sunshine and Growth	Mike Holliday

The evening will flow between readings and music, with somewhat more emphasis on the music. There will be an opportunity to move about the sanctuary, as one chooses. In addition to personal prayers and anointing with Pastor Teresa, there will be a prayer station where anyone may write a prayer request and put it in the basket. We'll continue to offer light refreshments immediately following vespers.

Looking forward to seeing you at Evening Vespers.

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH - Neighbors in Need**

Neighbors in Need offering 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. Through [ucc.org/justice](http://ucc.org/justice), our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, 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 (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC.



## COB CORNER

SUCCESS! The first annual COB Classic golf tournament was a HUGE SUCCESS! Approx. 80 golfers braved a wet, soggy day at Wedgewood! Despite the weather a FUN time was had by all with camaraderie, food and drink, prizes and raffle baskets. Over \$6,000 was raised--a great result for our first attempt at this type of event! Thanks to all who attended and helped to make this possible!

THANK YOU to all who came out to enjoy a meal at Ecco Domani.  
FUNDRAISING CONTINUES with 2 upcoming restaurant events:

Bella Ristorante, 639 Main St., Hellertown  
Sept 18,19,20 (Tues,Wed,Thur) 11-9:30  
Alcamo, 546 Richlandtown Pike, Richlandtown  
Oct. 3,4 (Wed/Thurs) 11-9

These restaurants generously donate a percentage of your check directly to COB! Please enjoy a yummy meal and support COB too!

THANKS to all who attended Frieden's Peach Festival!!! The generosity of their congregation continues to astound us each and every year-- a lot of hard work goes into the festival to benefit COB! RAFFLE TICKETS!!! Please sell/buy tickets! We are lagging behind in ticket sales this year and need to step it up in order to make a profit with the ticket sales! WE NEED YOUR HELP! And PLEASE remember to return your money and stubs and/or unsold tickets by Sept 9 as the drawing is on the 15th at Community Day at 4PM!!

COBScares 5K Run, Walk and Kid's Fun Run on Oct 20 at DeSales!! Grab your running or walking shoes and enjoy the lovely campus of DeSales University! You can sign up on the [www.cobcares.org](http://www.cobcares.org) website or see Deb Loew for an entry form. Sign up fee is \$25. Come in costume if you'd like! Prizes and Fun! ALSO.....sponsorship opportunities are available:

\$250 receives Logo on t-shirt and 2 free entries (\$50 value) and signage at start and finish of race

\$100 receives Logo on t-shirt and one free entry (\$25 value)

\*\* FRIEND LEVEL less than \$100 will receive name on t-shirt

WE HOPE TO HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS! Please consider donating to the 5K!

Glenn Kranzley disbursed \$5,000 to each of our recipients in early August. Please keep our recipients, their spouses and the 8 children of these 3 families in your thoughts and prayers as the moms all face serious tests and surgeries in the near future.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY - September

- 3 Christine Thatcher
- 8 Susan Reiss
- 9 Emily Killar
- 16 Norm Davis
- 21 Anne Schubert
- 28 Roberta Berger
- 30 Jean Hanville

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - September

- 6 Craig & Christine Thatcher
- 9 Doug & Joy Kuhns
- 11 Denise & Jim Long  
John & Marlene Ruby
- 13 David & Ann Snyder

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



**Thank You!** **DEAR ST. JOHN'S, COB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

This formal thank you is so very overdue it is shameful! We are very sorry. Thank you very, very much to all who donated to the gifts for Craig and I! We are greatly overwhelmed and humbled by your generosity! Thank you for your appreciation.

It has been a very eventful and difficult couple months in a number of ways and that coupled with the mixed emotions about accepting these gifts has made it difficult to write. Craig and I try to use the gifts God gave us for the church and for COB. We feel we fall short. Work schedules and family make us unable to do so much that you all do that we felt somewhat embarrassed to be singled out to be honored so.

That said, we immensely appreciate the gift certificate to the B & B at Cape May, the gift card and the beautiful , meaningful wall hanging that will always have a special place in our home. The vacation is booked for our 39th anniversary and we so look forward to it! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With humble gratitude and love for you all,  
Christine and Craig



We are now part of the Amazon Smile Program! This is the way the corporation of Amazon.com gives back to the community. You must shop through Amazon Smile every time. 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. Please share with family and friends! This is an easy way to give back to the church. Any questions please speak to Pastor Teresa. Her email is RevTeresaMartin@outlook.com

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



**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**



**RISE AND SHINE YOGA**



Wednesdays, 9 - 10 a.m.  
St. John’s parlor  
\$10 class

Please contact Carol **610.428.1236** to register

St. John's United Church of Christ  
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[www.stjohnsuccoop.org](http://www.stjohnsuccoop.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OUR MISSION:

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

goodbye, august

hello, september