



St. John's United Church of Christ Newsletter



October 2019

From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Saturday, October 12th will mark the day when we pack meals for the world's hungry as part of the Rise Against Hunger Initiative. Some of the meals that we pack will be going to feed those devastated by the category 5 hurricane in the Bahamas. There is a dire need there for food. A decade ago, Haiti was ravaged by a devastating earthquake. At that time the church I was serving in North Carolina connected with the Stop Hunger Now (Haiti) initiative, and like the Bahamas getting food to those on the ground was critical. This is our opportunity at St. John's to help make a difference in eradicating hunger in the world.

I've heard some grumbling (the Bible calls it murmuring) in the church, where people have complained that we should be doing something to "help our own people" through Phoenixville Area Community Services, rather than other people in the world. PACS is a wonderful ministry and we provide food donations monthly. We have had a pancake breakfast to raise money for PACS and we are once again a sponsor for the pottery bowl event which raises thousands and thousands of dollars for PACS. But let me point out something that was pointed out to me when I was serving in North Carolina by Stop Hunger Now (Rise Against Hunger): we have hunger in this country is true...but we do not have starvation, absolute starvation in this country. Food is available in our country from different outlets. Many people in third world countries and nations hit with natural catastrophe simply do not have access to any food.

When Jesus sat on the hillside by the sea of Galilee the people who went to hear him preach were absolutely hungry, starving by the end of the day. The disciples wanted Jesus to send them away to their own villages to buy food. Jesus commanded them, "You give them something to eat." (Mark 6:30-44) Share what you have with your neighbors, who are not even from your own town, your own family, your own tribe. 5,000 people shared a meal that day and it all began with five loaves and two fish. What all four gospels have given us in this story, is a wonderful metaphor that represents the church's mission, the church's responsibility, to feed the hungry. This means feeding "the other" who are our neighbors, who may not be Americans, who may be of a darker skin than our own, and who may not even be Christians. "You give them something to eat" says Jesus, "do not send them away."

Won't you join me as we pack over 10,000 meals for those who are starving??

Peace,
Pastor Ray



St. John's UCC Worship Service Hours

Sundays

Coffee Hour—9:00 a.m.

in Gruber Hall

Service—10:00 a.m.

in the Sanctuary

Adult Education—9:00 a.m.

in Leiby Chapel

Children's Church

Holy Communion is observed the first and third Sundays of the month.

Thursday Eucharist

Service

6:00 p.m. - Leiby Chapel

Prayer Calendar

NOISY MISSION UPDATE

Do you have loose change jingling in your pocket or purse? If so, please drop it in the Noisy Mission can on Sunday. Every little bit helps in mission!

During the month of October,
proceeds will support
The Bahamas Hurricane Disaster

The Emergency USA Fund allows UCC Disaster Ministries to respond to both large and small natural and human-caused disasters in all U.S. states and territories. This Emergency USA Fund also enables the United Church of Christ to be even more deeply involved in refugee and immigrant emergencies within the United States.

If you prefer to donate by mail, make checks payable to United Church of Christ, with "Emergency USA Fund" in the memo. Mail to: United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland OH 44115

Their website is:

https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/emergency_usa

October Birthdays

4 Evelyn Lorenz
5 Jena Verish
11 Martha Moses
13 Rose Ann Powell
17 Elwood Wilson
18 Cindy Foulds
24 Pastor Ray Jachowski
31 Ed Stepp



Pray for all those with diseases
Pray for the Church worldwide
Pray for the hospitalized
Pray for our nation
Pray for our choir
Pray for children
Pray for justice
Pray for Consistory
Pray for love
Pray for all children to grow in faith and trust in Jesus Christ
Pray for the congregation and our future
Pray for your neighbors
Pray for the PA Southeast Conference
Pray for peace in our Nation
Pray for our staff
Pray for your family
Pray for a community free of violence
Pray for the nations of the world
Pray for world peace
Pray for human rights
Pray for the poor
Pray for students

MORNING AND EVENING WEEKLY PRAYERS

Week of Sunday, October 6

Household Prayer: Morning

New every morning are your mercies, dear God. As I begin this new day,
make me as merciful to others as you have been to me. Strengthen me in faith
so that I may trust in you with my whole heart. If any trouble overtakes me today,
help me to wait and to hope in you. May the Holy Spirit help me
as I both guard and give away to others the treasure of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of my homecoming, the night falls with your steadfast love
watching over the world. I put my trust in you as I prepare to lie down in sleep.
Thank you for the gift of the day as it has been: for glimpses of beauty;
for expressions of care; for opportunities to serve.
Thank you for the gift of faith kindled and rekindled in me through the years.
Thank you for those who have taught me the faith in sincerity and love.
With the return of morning's light, may I rise from this resting place
to live tomorrow in accord with your purpose and grace.
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Week of Sunday, October 13

Household Prayer: Morning

God of endings, of packing up decisions of keeping and leaving
of saying goodbye the practice of closing and tidying of moving
the finality of distance between of newness,
the lonely silence of emptiness. Grant me
the strength to start over. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Generous God, a day of worship a day of rest a day in community
a day to be blessed a day for offering a day for welcoming
a day of remembering a day of reckoning—this is the day
the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

Week of Sunday, October 20

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, gracious God, for giving me a limp. You have let me struggle with you;
you have blessed me; you have marked me as your own.
Send me out today, with all my frailties and weaknesses,
to be a witness to your love, grateful for another day
to sing your praise. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved; the One who keeps you will not slumber.
God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore. Amen.

Week of Sunday, October 27

Household Prayer: Morning

God of light, thank you for another day. With each hour,
may I be watchful for signs of your grace, ready to show your love,
and eager to tell the good news of Jesus Christ.
Make me more faithful than I was yesterday,
and lead me in the paths of righteousness. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the challenges and blessings of this day, O God.
If I kept faith with you, thank you for your Spirit's help.
If I looked away from you, turn me back around.
As night falls, I relinquish my pride and my fear
and entrust all whom I love to your care,
with prayers for a peaceful rest;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Rev. Judith Meier has offered to share a few articles with St. John's that were created for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Dr. Philip Schaff is one of the founders of the Mercersburg movement in German Reformed liturgy and theology.

Ask Dr. Phil
A special service of Dr. Philip Schaff

Dear Dr. Phil,

A church down the street from ours burned to the ground last week and all their records were destroyed. Our congregation is almost 200 years old, and we'd hate to have something like that happen to our records (we'd hate to have the church burn down too!). What do you suggest? - Bob B., Consistory President

Dear Bob,

I can understand your concern. Over the centuries many church records have been lost - some because the church burned, some because the congregation ceased to exist or joined another denomination. Keeping your records in a vault in the church office might make you feel a bit more secure. A large number of churches have arranged to have their records microfilmed or digitized. Then they keep a copy and deposit their original record books with the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. One of the nice things about having your records on microfilm or a disk is that, when genealogists ask for your help, you can give them a microcopy of their ancestors' records. You wouldn't want to put your fragile record book on the photocopy machine, would you? When a congregation is disbanded, of course, the original records should be given to the ERHS for posterity.

If you want to learn more about the care and safekeeping of your church's sacramental records, get in touch with the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, located on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library at Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. You can direct your inquiries to erhs@lanasterseminary.edu or call 717-290-8734 to make an appointment for an on-site visit. Alison Mallin, our Office Manager and Archives Assistant, will be happy to help you. The library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from 9 to 4. A daily pass to do research at the ERHS Library is only \$7.00 a day. Research by mail is \$35 an hour. Donations are welcome.

Yours truly,

Dr. Phil

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
315 GAY STREET
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460**

Address Update

If you have a permanent or temporary (college, extended vacation, etc.) change of address, please give this information to the church office:

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Phone: _____ Permanent ____ Temporary ____ from / / to / /

Applies to just the above name ____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

St. John's United Church of Christ

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E-mail for Pastor: huskidog@aol.com

Pastor's Cell Phone: 484-624-2463

E-mail for Admin.: stjohnsucc.secretary@gmail.com

Church Office Phone: 610-933-5311

Website: www.stjohnsucc.tk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnsucc

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Tuesday – Friday

Rev. Raymond Jachowski, Pastor

Matthew Valent, Director of Music

Virginia Filipovic, Church Office Administrator

Robert P. Verish, Sexton

Doris Selwitz, Organist Emerita

Ministers: Everyone