



St. John's News

St. John's United Church of Christ
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All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, October 14

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Fraunfelder Hall

Sponsored by Summer Crew



Menu

Fresh Fruit Salad

Fresh Baked Mini Fruit Baskets

Scrambled Eggs

*Sausage, Onions, Peppers &
Cheddar Scramble*

Cream Dried Beef with Buttermilk Biscuits

French Toast Sticks

Maple Syrup & Butter

Ham & Egg Stuffed Biscuit

Breakfast Sausage

Applewood Smoked Bacon

Home Fries

Assorted Juices ~ Coffee and Tea

Adults - \$8.00 - ~ Children 3-10 - \$3.00 - ~ Children under 3 - free

Benefits our youth's 2019 summer events.



Golden Age Recognition

for our members and guests
75+ years old.

Sunday, October 28

during the 10:45 a.m. worship

Special Treat — One-Shot Golden Age Choir

Please join us for lunch following worship in Fraunfelder Hall. Sign up in the DeRemer Gallery.



Golden Age Sponsorships

Golden Age Sunday this year will be held on **October 28, 2018** at the 10:45 a.m. worship service, where we will have the opportunity to honor those members of the congregation who are 75 years old or more.



In order to help defray the cost of expenses associated with Golden Age Sunday, please consider becoming a: **Gold Sponsor - \$25 and up** or **Silver Sponsor - \$10 and up**. Special envelopes for your donation are in the DeRemer Gallery.



October 7, 2018
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.



Medicare 101 Coming to Hebrews Café

On Sundays, **October 14 and 21 at 9:15 a.m.** in Hebrews Café, the focus will be on Medicare Health Insurance. Our guest speaker will be David Blackstone, a volunteer counselor for the Pennsylvania Apprise Program. This program was created by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to help residents understand their Medicare and other health insurance benefits. The timing of this event is very important because Medicare Open Enrollment Period is October 15 - December 7.

October 14 will be an introduction to Medicare for individuals that will be eligible for Medicare in the next year. This presentation will concentrate on Medicare eligibility and enrollment.

October 21 will benefit those individuals who are already enrolled in Medicare. The focus will be areas of Medicare that may have changed or need clarification.

Whether you are new to Medicare or are currently enrolled in Medicare, you will not want to miss this presentation!

**Women's Association
Multi-Family Yard Sale**
Saturday, October 6
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



From Phoebe Ministries ~

Thank you for your gift of \$967 to Phoebe. Because of your generosity, Phoebe is able to meet the needs of older adults through diverse residential options, comprehensive care and exceptional educational programs. From independent living to affordable housing to skilled nursing, charitable contributions truly make a difference in the daily lives of our seniors.

Thank you again for your support!

*Stacey Prohaska, Executive Director
Office of Philanthropy*

From The Nazareth Food Bank ~

Thank you for the generous donations of food and personal care products collected during the summer months along with the numerous school supplies. In August, 76 children received a large bag of essential items to start the new school year.

The need for our services remains great, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

*Kay Stracko
Corresponding Secretary*

German Partner Church visits Nazareth – Summer 2019

Our partner congregation from Melsungen, Germany will be visiting Nazareth next summer. They'll arrive Friday, July 26th and return to Germany on Tuesday, August 6th. During the week and a half that they'll be visiting, our German friends will be staying with St. John's UCC host families and participating in a full itinerary planned by our Partnership committee. They will join us for two Sunday worship services – July 28th and August 4th. Plans are being formulated for the German youth to join with St. John's youth in a 2 to 3 day local service / mission project.

Pam and Keith Dawe are currently recruiting host families. Hosting Germans on their prior visits has proven to be a rewarding, unique, and overwhelmingly positive experience for St. John's congregation members. Friendships made on prior exchange visits have often led to follow-on visits when we travel to Melsungen in subsequent years.

At its simplest, hosting involves providing overnight accommodations and one or two meals per day for one or several German guests. The Partnership committee will have organized activities and day trips for the weekday portions of the visit. Host families may elect to join in some or all of these activities, but they could also simply provide overnight sleeping arrangements while attending to their own occupations / professions during the daytime hours. The language difference has not proven to be any sort of impediment on prior visits. Please give prayerful consideration to being a host for our dear German friends when they come to Nazareth next summer! The Dawe's can be contacted at 610-746-6505.

Special Offerings in October

Our special offerings give each of us the opportunity to give a double blessing to our congregation as we engage in making and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ. In the month of October, our special offering envelopes will support the following:

October 7 - Neighbors in Need

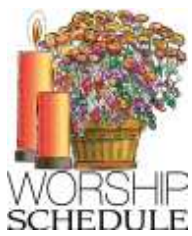
October 21 - Promotion of the Arts & Music

We extend warm and friendly **Birthday Greetings** to our member who is homebound and having a birthday in October.

October 28 - Allen Hermansader



Happy Birthday, with our caring thoughts and prayers.



October 3 - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Communion

Worship Invitation: Join us for our Wednesday Communion Service at 11:00 a.m.

Message: **Do We Ask God for Favors?**

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

October 7 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

First Communion Sunday (10:45)

Preparing for Worship at Home: When you pray this week, pay attention as to whether you are praying to ask God for a favor or you are opening your heart to God while seeking God's will in your life.

Worship Invitation: Join us today as we consider what we ask God to do for us.

Message: **Do We Ask God for Favors?**

Scripture: Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10;
 Mark 10:35-45

October 14 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Bring Offering Forward

Preparing for Worship at Home: How many people in your family know your financial situation? Do your adult children have any idea of whether or not you are financially able to deal with retirement? Consider having some conversations with them. If you are younger, consider what financial planning you should be doing. Then go and do it.

Worship Invitation: Worship with us today as we consider the conflict between wanting all the world has to offer and wanting what Jesus has to offer.

Message: **Whose Money is it Anyway?**

Scripture: Psalm 90:12-17; Mark 10:17-31

October 21 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Youth Service Sunday

Today the congregation of St. John's will have the opportunity to experience a Youth Led and created by Youth Service at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m. Listen to them as they incorporate the Houston mission trip and Eastern Regional Youth Event experiences into this creative service. May their passion, creativity and energy inspire you!



October 28 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Golden Age Sunday (10:45)

Anointing with Oil

Preparing for Worship at Home: Share a story about a time when you asked for something and the answer was no and you kept on asking until you got it.

Worship Invitation: Join us for worship this week as we consider what it means to persistently pray, to constantly call on God.

Message: **Sometimes You Have to Shout for Jesus**

Scripture: Psalm 126; Mark 10:46-52

Attention All Youth

— Youth Service Sunday, October 21 for both services. All youth are welcome to be a part! See Marge for information.



— All youth are encouraged to serve at the **Golden Age Luncheon on October 28**. Details to follow. Our Golden Agers welcome your smiles and energy!

Sparks

The Sparks Youth Group is especially designed for grades 3-5. Our meeting time is the first Sunday of the month, Noon-1 p.m. We ask that you bring a bag lunch to enjoy a meal time with each other and an activity following. Occasionally, the group will join with the other youth groups for service projects, mission and field trips.

Sunday, October 7 — Crazy Pumpkin Day — If a pumpkin could talk, what would it say? Bring a bag lunch.

Xplosion

The Xplosion Youth Group is for grades 6, 7 and 8 and meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the House. Friends are always welcome to be a part of this group.

Sunday, October 7, 2:30 p.m. — We're off to Mazezilla — Can you weave your way through a maze? Bring a bag lunch (for supper). Cost is \$9. Return approximately 5:30 p.m.

Seekers

The Seekers Youth Group is for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 and meets every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Our 18 and older young adults may join us at any time, but we will be offering a time just for them on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We meet in the House!

Sunday, October 7, 2:30 p.m. — We're off to Mazezilla — Can you weave your way through a maze? Bring a bag lunch (for supper). Cost is \$9. Return approximately 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 28 — Lessons from the cemetery — Bring a flashlight...

Summer Crew

Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Selling snacks, drinks and hot dogs, etc. at the Women's Association Yard Sale.

Sunday, October 14 — Fall Buffet Breakfast Fundraiser.

~ Mark Your Calendar ~

~ November 4 - All Saints Day

~ November 4 - Robert Becker Memorial Concert
 — Elisabeth VonTrapp

~ December 2 - Advent Communion

REFLECTIONS

Does Faith Make a Difference?

by Pastor Jeff


A way of life is a big and often baffling thing. Imagine being set down among a group of people whose way of life is completely unfamiliar to you. It would be nearly impossible to comprehend its meaning all at once, or to see how it all holds together. And so you might try to make sense of it piece by piece; this is how they eat, this is how they trade, this is how they raise their children. Gradually, you would begin to see the patterns of this way of life in the details of how people do a variety of things with and for one another. This book follows a similar method. Rather than examining a Christian way of life as a whole, we intend to survey some of the most important activities that compose it.¹

What is it that makes your life or my life recognizably Christian? Dorothy Bass is the editor of the book quoted above. Currently in its second edition, this book is a collection of essays that examine what are called practices; activities and ways of being, that when taken as a whole, shape a Christian way of life. What does it mean to say that I am a Christian? If you were to observe my life, could you tell whether or not I was a Christian? If I were to observe your life, could I tell the same thing about you? Are there certain ways Christians act and are there a distinct set of values by which Christians live? Do our choices in life reflect what we say we believe or is there a gap - a disconnect between what we say and what we do? Are our lives any different from those who live around us who do not claim to be Christian?

A practice is an authentic and genuine ways of being. Each practice points to a certain area of concern. The Practices explored in the book are Honoring the Body, Hospitality, Household Economics, Saying Yes and Saying No, Keeping Sabbath, Testimony, Discernment, Shaping Communities, Forgiveness, Healing, Dying Well and Singing our Lives. When individuals and communities of faith pay attention to these practices and try to live them in their lives, they begin to evidence a way of being. A life shaped by Christian practices gives evidence of a life dedicated to serving Christ.

Our Spiritual Council is beginning to explore what expectations we live up to as members of St. John's United Church of Christ and as members of the Church of Jesus Christ. Our Confirmands currently study a book of 32 Christian Practices with their Mentors, Marge Baltz and myself. Our hope is that as we explore and discover various ways of living out our faith, we will begin to understand what a Christian life looks like and, once we understand it, to live it. All of this takes it for granted that being a Christian should make a difference in our lives. By the way we live and the things we value, should people have some evidence of our faith? If you might like to explore Christian practices further, let me know.

¹ Bass, Dorothy C. *Practicing Our Faith; A Way of Life for a Searching People*. San Francisco; Josey Bass 2nd ed. 2010. Print. 6

From the

Parish Nurse

October 14 is Blood Pressure Day. One of our registered nurses will be in the Miko Chapel following the worship services to check your blood pressure.

Wednesday Communion

October 3, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Running Blind

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn't supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. "I can't see!" I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. "It's okay!" he shouted back. "I can!"

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I'm running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.

—Heidi Mann

WALK BY
 faith,
 NOT BY
 sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

Parish Ministrations

Deaths

Mabel A. Czapp, born August 31, 1934
died September 17, 2018
Claude Leh, born September 2, 1930
died September 23, 2018



ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance / 9:30 a.m.

August 127



All Saints Celebration November 4, 2018

The *Remembrance Book* will be available and open for your entries in the **Miko Memorial Chapel** from **October 14 through November 4**. Feel free to write the names of any and all persons who have been your saints, mentors or loved ones and whom you want commemorated on All Saints' Day 2018.

Due to Vacation time, the main Church Office will have abbreviated office hours for October.



Mondays - 9:00 a.m. – 12 (noon)
Tuesdays – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursdays – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Fridays - 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Autumn Wardrobe

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter woools.

—Henry Beston

Ministers: All Members of the Church
Senior Pastor: The Rev. Jeffery A. Brinks
Parish Nurse: BrendaLee Howell, RN
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Marjorie Baltz
Director of Music: Susan L. Frickert
Handbell Director: L. Rick Hilborn
Director of Nursery School: Jane Radio
Child Care: Tammy Bacak
Nursery Coordinator: Stephanie McLaughlin
Office Manager: Corinne Remaly
Office Secretary: Kristina Caka
Financial Secretary: Pamela Wallaesa
Building Manager: Anthony Regeg
Sextons: Shirl Young, Dawn Trapp, SuLin Flanagan, Nicolas Muscler
Editor: Peggy Benfield
Reporter: Bob Krug

Those Who Serve ~ November

Greeters are needed for all services. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 610-759-0893 or sign up in the DeRemer Gallery.

November 4

8:00 Head Usher Richard Garr
Sound Board David Weikel
10:45 Worship Host Nancy Thorne
Sound Board John Muscler
Acolyte Daynika Ziegenfus
Childcare Kacy Miller

Counting Chair - Richard Garr

November 11

8:00 Head Usher Les & Ruth Anderson
Sound Board Pat Stracko
10:45 Worship Hosts Bill & Joanne Dorko
Acolyte Grace Dawe
Sound Board Chris Manzo
Childcare Susan McNamara

Counting Chair - Charles Spohn

November 18

8:00 Head Usher Carl Solt
Sound Board Steve Kraemer
10:45 Worship Host Ruth Shirer
Acolyte Emma Dorko
Sound Board Mark Walter
Childcare Beth Sensenig

Counting Chairs - Lou & Sue Murante

November 25

8:00 Head Usher Richard Kraemer
Sound Board Walter Fries
10:45 Worship Hosts Scott & Lisa Hoffman
Acolyte Anna Estrada
Sound Board John Muscler
Childcare Lauren Madson

Counting Chairs - Keith & Janet Schlamp



The Cemetery Board will hold another work party on **Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 12 (noon)** at St. John's Cemetery on South Street. Please bring rakes, shovels and pry bars. Also, some tree limbs will have to be removed. In case of rain, we will meet the following Saturday, October 13. Thank you again for the progress that was made on the last work day. We hope to see you again.



The deadline for submitting newsletter articles is the 15th of each month. Articles may be submitted to the Church Office, the church's email or the editor's email, pjbring126@yahoo.com.