



St. John's News

St. John's United Church of Christ
183 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064-2153
610-759-0893 ~ Fax: 610-759-0868

Web Site: www.sjuccnaz.org

Email: mail@sjuccnaz.org

Church School Kick-off

Sunday, September 10 — 9:15-10:15 a.m.

3 years old thru 5th grade Church School

Families and children will meet
in Fraunfelder Hall.

*“God put a million doors in the world for his love to walk through...
One of them is you!”*



Activities include:

A door scavenger hunt through the church, Prayer & Praise
and snacks!

Child care will be available for children 2 and under.



6th - 12th Grade Church School

“Party in the parking lot.”

Starting the church school year with pancakes (and all the toppings), music and
getting to know each other. Bring your appetite!!!

Meet your church school teachers and youth leaders!

Church School (in classrooms) begins September 17 at 9:15 a.m.



**Begins
September 10
8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

Welcome to Our New Student Pastor

Hello! I am **Kathy Sofie** and I am very excited to meet all of you very soon. I will be mentoring as a student Pastor under Rev. Brinks. My hope is to be with all of you on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month for 9 to 12 months starting in September.

I am currently on staff at New Creation UCC as a youth minister and attending a program of study at Moravian Seminary to become a Licensed Lay Minister in the PNEC. My husband Shawn and I live in Bethlehem Township and have two daughters.

I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to grow and learn!



*Blessings,
Kathy Sofie*

S. Gwilym Williams Scholarship Through PNEC

If you are a college or graduate student who is preparing for a career either as a/an ordained minister, certified teacher or educator, doctor of medicine then you may qualify for a scholarship grant from the Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship Fund.

This Trust Fund, created over a generation ago by a now deceased PNEC benefactor from Scranton, is administered by the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. The purpose of this Fund is to provide financial assistance for post-secondary students enrolled in accredited institutions of higher learning, and who are preparing to embark on a career either as an ordained minister, a certified teacher or educator, or a doctor of medicine.

Grants are limited by stipulation of the Trust to students pursuing one of these three career options, and who are also currently members in good standing of a PNEC congregation. Financial assistance will be awarded only to help pay the institution-stipulated costs of tuition and/or housing.

You are required to submit to the PNEC office all application materials (your application, certification of an acceptable program of study, your school's financial bill) before your request will be considered. Application materials must be in our office by October 1st in order to be considered for a grant for the (preceding) summer and/or (current) fall terms, and by March 1st in order to be considered for a grant for the (preceding) winter and/or (current) spring terms. Reimbursement checks will be issued directly to successful applicants. Even if you have received a Gwilym T. Williams scholarship in the past, you must reapply in order to be considered for a new grant. Applicants are awarded a maximum ten grants for undergraduate work, and ten (more) grants for post-graduate studies.

Please go to www.pnec.org to obtain the application packet.

Please note: your application will not be processed until all three application materials are received in the PNEC office.

"I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom."

—Umberto Eco

~ Mark Your Calendar ~

- ~ October 1 - World Communion
- ~ October 15 - Partnership Sunday
- ~ October 22 - Golden Age Sunday
- ~ October 22 - New Member Sunday
- ~ November 12 - Robert H. Becker Memorial Concert

WANTED:

People who love God, love their church & love to sing.

**Description: All ages, all shapes, all sizes.
Tend to be too modest about their musical ability.**

**Might also claim to be "rusty" or "too busy".
Last seen hiding out in the congregation!**

Please be on the lookout for:

➔ CHILDREN 4 years thru 5th grade

**Junior Choir: rehearses Thursdays
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

First Rehearsal Thursday, September 7

➔ PRE-TEENS & TEENS 6th through 12th grade

**StarSong: rehearses Sundays
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**First Rehearsal Sunday, September 10,
(part of the All Youth Kick-Off!)**

Look for more details in Youth News.

➔ ADULTS 18 AND OVER

**Maranatha Singers: rehearses Sundays
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.**

First Rehearsal Sunday, September 10

➔ ADULTS WITH SOME PREVIOUS CHORAL EXPERIENCE

**Cantabile Singers: rehearses Tuesdays
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

First Rehearsal Tuesday, September 19

➔ MEN (*Ah, men!*)

**St. John'smen: rehearses Saturdays
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

First Rehearsal Saturday, September 9

*If you notice any of the people described above,
do not attempt to apprehend!
Notify Susan Frickert immediately!*

We extend warm and friendly **Birthday Greetings** to our members who are homebound and having a birthday in September.

September 15 - Gloria Getz
18 - Arlene Nelson
29 - Erma Kromer



Happy Birthday, with our caring thoughts and prayers.



All Youth Groups

September 10, 4-7 p.m. - Step right up! Don't be shy! You are about to witness what occurs just once a year! It's nothing less than spectacular! You are the stars of

the show! It's St. John's Youth Ministry Kick-Off! Crazy games, hot dogs, popcorn, orange floats and music... All in the church parking lot. Friends are always invited!

Xplosion (Grades 6-8)

Meets the first and third Sunday of the month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the House.

September 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m. — Pop-rock Messages.

Seekers (Grades 6-12)

Meets every Sunday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the House. Times may vary according to the activities planned.

September 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. — We will join with Xplosion for Pop-rock Messages.

For all Youth in grades 7-12

September 23-24 — PNEC Sleepout for Homelessness. Sleep in a box and experience just what homelessness can mean. See Connie Rought for information.



Women's Association Happenings

Multi-Family Yard Sale



The Women's Association will be sponsoring a Multi-Family Yard Sale on **Saturday, October 7**. The cost for an 8 foot space with a table will be \$10.

Forms can be picked up at the sign-up table in the DeRemer Gallery or the Church Office. If there are any questions, please contact Dolores Kresge at 610-759-056Q.

From the



September 10 is Blood Pressure Day. One of our registered nurses will be in the

Miko Chapel following the worship services to check your blood pressure.

Comments From Our Youth:



All Youth Pool Party: Alaina Karcher... "We all had a great time spending time together as well as dancing and swimming. It's easy to say that we all enjoyed the food, especially the marshmallows."



New Creation UCC, Grace UCC Northampton and St. John's UCC Nazareth joined together serving those in need in Pittsburgh July 17-21. We worshipped and built relationships with 150 other youth and adults.

Pittsburgh Mission Trip: Cecelia Rought... "I had a great time at the Pittsburgh Project. I enjoyed the homeowner; she made us feel like family. She always joked about adding more children to her family every time groups came to help her. The PP impacted her life and other homeowners lives greatly. We fixed her toilet and the ceiling underneath it."



Gatlinburg, Tennessee Mission Trip: Chris Manzo... "Mission Trip is a spiritually uplifting experience for me. It enables me to use the gifts God has blessed me with to serve others in need."

Morgan Dieter... "It was a heartwarming experience. Getting to see the homeowners expressions and thankfulness was such a blessing."

REFLECTIONS

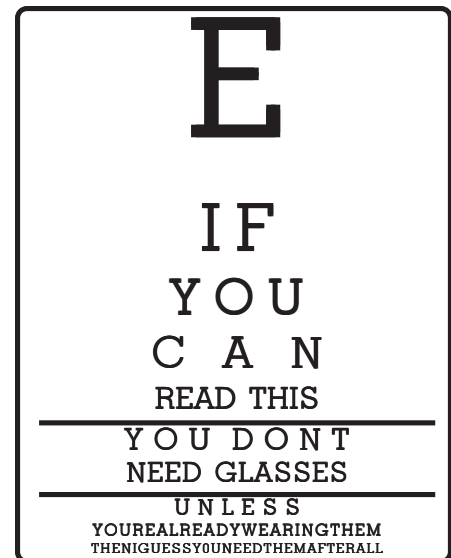
by Pastor Jeff

How might eyeglasses, rearview mirrors, microscopes, magnifying glasses, windows, telescopes, cameras with telephoto lenses, lights, old photographs and family portraits be related? One way they are related is that they all have to do with vision. They either help us see things more clearly in the present moment, or how things used to be at one point in the past. None of them, however, can help us see into the future.

One hundred and fifty-eight years ago, faithful women and men had a vision for the future, which included a church, this church to be specific. Then, as now, there were no guarantees that the congregation would last for countless generations. Nor were there any certainties that future generations would be able financially to sustain the building and the ministries of the congregation. There were hopes and expectations that the community would become a part of the congregation. What drove this vision was faith in God, love of Christ and the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. People who had been touched by the love of Christ wanted other people to hear and embrace the gospel in addition to having a place to gather to worship. It was a vision that the church would be the center of community and family life; that it would provide a moral compass to the community and that it would care for those who needed caring for. That vision, which is to some extent still our vision, sustained the church through countless generations.

It is not surprising that 158 years later we find ourselves living in a different world. Recently, I read a description of the selfie generation, a generation marked by taking pictures of themselves doing all sorts of things or of posting on social media what they are doing and with whom all the time. It is a generation, this author claimed, that is entirely too self-involved and not involved enough with the world. The challenge is to get this generation to see beyond themselves to ways in which they might engage in transforming our society into a more compassionate and kinder world. What kind of vision do we need to engage in that work? What vision will entice our community to be a part of building God's Kingdom, God's Realm now? The visions of the past got us to where we are today. We cannot assume that all we need is a tweak here and there and everything will be as it used to be. Countless congregations with beautiful and historic buildings are closing or ceasing to exist because the vision they were trying to live by has ceased to be meaningful to new generations. Our mandate is to change the world we live in with the love of Christ. It is time to have a new discussion as to how we can bring about that mandate.

No one of us individually has the answer, but together, through prayer and reflection, we might have the answer collectively. This fall we will be beginning a program called ReVision, a program to involve the whole congregation in small group discussions and discernment about our past, present and future. It is a way to reexamine and fine-tune our vision for the future. You will be seeing more about this in the days ahead. I do hope you will whole-heartedly be a part of talking about the future of the congregation. We can't move into the future without you!



St. John's Sacred Voices in Concert

Directed by Susan L. Frickert

Sunday, September 24, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

"We All Believe in One True God — Reformation 500th"

Accompanied by Brass, Timpani, Harp Organ and Piano

Tickets: Adults \$10, Students \$5

Tickets on sale beginning September 10 following worship in the DeRemer Gallery or in the Church Office during the week.



September 3 - 9:30 a.m.

Preparing for Worship at Home: Pay something "forward" this week. Do something nice for someone who is not expecting it.

Worship Invitation: Join us this Labor Day Weekend to consider what Love looks like.

Message: **Top That!**

Scripture: Psalm 26:1-8; Matthew 16:21-28;
Romans 12:9-21

**September 6 - 11:00 a.m.****First Wednesday Communion**

Worship Invitation: Join us for our Wednesday morning Communion Service today. This is a brief service open to all.

Message: **Our Beginnings - Sent in Faith to a New World**

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

September 10 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

→ **Fall Schedule Resumes** ←

Bring Offering Forward

Preparing for Worship at Home: Estimate how many times this month your household will have time for a sit down meal together.

Worship Invitation: Today is a new beginning. Worship is moving to 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. Christian formation (Church School, etc.) will begin at 9:15. We are urged to consider what serving God in a fast food world looks like.

Message: **Fast Food and a Promise of New Life**
Scripture: Romans 13:8-14; Exodus 12:1-14

September 17 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**Switch it UP Sunday**

Preparing for Worship at Home: Spend some time meditating on a time when you received forgiveness you feel you did not deserve.

Worship Invitation: Worship with us today as we consider the depth of forgiveness we have received and the mercy disciples are called to offer others.

Message: **A Forgiving Spirit**

Scripture: Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**Bring Offering Forward****Anointing with Oil for Healing**

Preparing for Worship at Home: Keep track of how many times you treat one person differently than you treat others this week.

Worship Invitation: Come explore an unfair God with us!

Message: **Unfair Blessings!**

Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

"Pray, and let God worry."

—Martin Luther

Communion Class Retreat

Children who are in Grade 3 and above are invited to a one day "Communion Class Retreat" being offered on **Saturday, September 30**, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The child's first Communion will be held on Sunday, October 1 at 10:45 a.m.

Please contact the Church Office (610-759-0893) by Friday, September 22 if your child will be attending.

College Addresses and Emails Needed

It's back-to-school time again, and we are in need of those college addresses and emails. The only way we can keep in touch with our young people away from home is for you to let us know their information. Send an email to the church or call the Church Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or leave a message on the answering machine if it's after hours. Thank you!

**Save the Date
April 14, 2018****Save the "Stuff"
Rummage Sale**

St. John's will be having a rummage sale again in 2018. You have some time yet before you need to go through your closets, attics, basements and garages for items you no longer need or want.

**From Phoebe Ministries...**

Thank you for your gift of \$930 on August 1. Your gift will be used in support of Phoebe-Devitt Homes. With your support, Phoebe is able to provide the highest level of care to our residents. Charitable gifts ensure our resident have access to invigorating activity programs, innovative services, a comprehensive pastoral care program and cutting-edge dementia care.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Phoebe Ministries.

From the Nazareth Ministerium...

Thank you for the donation of \$200 towards the Summer Lunch Program this year. This gift will help feed not only the children and youth in our community, but also allow us to stretch the funds of our seniors by providing a bagged lunch.



The Wills and Memorials Committee has received contributions to the Fund during the months of June and July 2017 in memory of **Blaine & Vera Rodgers, Francis Donnelly** and **Gregory Altemose**.

Should you have any questions regarding the way in which you designate monies to the church through a will or trust, please contact any member of the Wills and Memorials Committee: Robert Barnett, Jay Benfield, David Danner, Lou Murante, Steve Kraemer, Matt Sensenig or Pastor Jeff.

Parish Ministrations

Baptisms (July 16, 2017)

Nani Rose Scheuermann, born April 25, 2017
Parents: Daniel & Danielle Scheuermann

August 13, 2017

Evelyn Grace Bedoya, born February 22, 2017
Parents: Jared and Abigail Bedoya

Marriage (July 8, 2017)

Laurie Colvin and Ryan Nelson

Deaths

Robert W. Eberly, born August 19, 1942
died July 21, 2017

Edwin C. Houck, Jr., born March 18, 1924
died July 22, 2017

Darvine J. Smith, born October 3, 1927
died August 2, 2017

Jack R. Herbst, born May 13, 1960
died August 12, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance

June 9:30 - 180
July 9:30 - 165
First Wednesday - 6



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.

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 Regec
Sextons: Shirl Young, Dawn Trapp, SuLin Flanagan
Editor: Peggy Benfield
Reporters: Linda Danner, Dolores Kresge, Nancy Madara
Photographer: Keith Dawe

Those Who Serve October

Volunteers are needed to greet on a Sunday morning. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 610-759-0893 or sign up in the DeRemer Gallery.

October 1

8:00 Greeters Cindy & Rick DeLuca
Head Usher Terri Quinter
Sound Board David Weikel

10:45 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Acolyte Katie Madson
Worship Host Nancy Thorne
Sound Board Chris Manzo
Child Care Kacy Miller

Counting Chairs — Jerry & Sandra Treon

October 8

8:00 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Head Usher Richard Kraemer
Sound Board Walter Fries

10:45 Greeters Lori Dieter; Johnathan Dieter
Acolyte Cecelia Rought
Worship Hosts Scott & Lisa Hoffman
Sound Board John Muscler
Child Care Susan McNamara

Counting Chair — David Blackstone

October 15

8:00 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Head Ushers Les & Ruth Anderson
Sound Board Lou Murante

10:45 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Acolyte Maddie Schaller
Worship Host Nancy Thorne
Sound Board Aaron Schisler
Jordan Sensenig
Child Care Beth Sensenig

Counting Chair — John Waha

October 22

8:00 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Head Usher Carl Solt
Sound Board Michael Goch

10:45 Greeters **2 Volunteers needed**
Acolyte Ian Van Horn
Worship Host Annie Schaller
Sound Board Mark Walter
Child Care Lauren Madson

Counting Chairs — Bill & Ruth Shirer

October 29

8:00 Greeters Nicole Johnson
1 Volunteer needed

Head Usher Richard Garr
Sound Board Steve Kraemer
10:45 Greeters Lori Dieter; Johnathan Dieter
Acolyte Katie Madson
Worship Hosts Chris & Ann Manzo
Sound Board John Muscler
Child Care Janel Ziegenfus

Counting Chairs — Clare & Aletha Kiefer

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Return Service Requested

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LEHIGH VALLEY PA

We are especially thankful for:



- ~ Meet our new Student Pastor.
- ~ Church School Kick-Off
- ~ Multi-Family Yard Sale
- ~ St. John's Sacred Voices Concert
- ~ Choir rehearsals beginning

