



2019 Newsletter

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Reverend Jo Ellen Mauger
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Church Website—www.stjohnsucc.org
Church Office Hours: 9:15AM to 3:15PM Monday and Thursday

“Where is the child?”



Happy New Year! As we usher in the new year, we find ourselves catapulted into the season of Epiphany – the church season that celebrates the coming of the Light of the World to all creation, a time of joy that focuses on the teaching and healing ministry of Christ. The scripture lessons on which we will focus are chosen to lead us to grow toward a fuller understanding of the significance of Jesus’ entire life.

The first event to Jesus’ adult life that we encounter during the Epiphany season is his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. This event is identified by gospel writer in Mark as the acknowledgement of Jesus as God’s beloved Son, and is the starting point of his adult ministry. Jesus’ baptism marked a “new beginning” in his life, with God’s words of affirmation to sustain him in that ministry. As Christians sharing in Christ’s baptism, we, too, are called to respond to God’s voice calling us into new directions in our lives. We, too, have God’s words of affirmation to sustain us as we carry out God’s mission in the world.

St. John’s is also entering a time of “new beginnings,” as we begin to put together a church profile and search committee, as well as explore new directions that will help us to step into the future. Please know that all of these endeavors will take time and patience – nothing will happen overnight. There will be new defining moments as we continue to minister together, always relying of the grace of God to guide and direct us, and to carry us through.

It is a joy to serve among you and I am delighted to be able to share this time with you!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jo

Schedule

January	1	New Year's Day
	2	7PM Choir
	3	6:30 NA Mtg.
	6	Epiphany Holy Communion
	13	The Baptism of Christ
	9	7PM Choir
	10	6:30 NA Mtg.
	16	7PM Choir 7PM Council
	17	6:30PM NA Mtg.
	20	2nd Sunday after Epiphany
	21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	23	7PM Choir
	24	6:30PM NA Mtg. Quakertown Food Pantry
	27	3rd Sunday after Epiphany Congregational Meeting
	30	7PM Choir Food For Friends
	31	NA Mtg.

**Have you remembered
St. John's U.C.C. in your will?**

Remember our Shut-in with your prayers and cards

Charles Mundy
304 East Montgomery Avenue
North Wales, PA 19454-2950



Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting and Covered Dish Luncheon will be held following church on Sunday, January 27th. Please bring a dish to share.

2019 Church Council nominees are: Bev Kuhn and Eleanor Fly.

It's that time of year again! Each committee's **Annual Report for 2018** is due in January. The report will be ready for pick up at the Congregational Meeting. Please submit a hand written copy as early as possible or a Word Document and email to the church at



stjucrichtown@verizon.net. Questions, please call 215-538-0875. Thank you!!

Prayer Chain

When the prayers go up, the blessings come down. Patience is the key. We know God answers our prayers according to His time frame and His plan. Our Prayer Chain is blessed to be a blessing to others
Call Marcella Kulp (215-536-5625) with your prayer concerns.



Please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes in the narthex.



Time to sign up for Altar Flowers and Bulletins for 2019!

Please see the signup sheets in the Narthex. Thanks!

Just a reminder that we are still taking Redner's Receipts.

Redner's is still giving us 1% of receipts submitted. The receipts can be from years past no expiration date! You can get a new card at the service desk or at the register. Points can be used to reduce your grocery purchase; please check with Redner's for details.



Inclement Weather

In the event it becomes necessary to cancel Services at any time during the winter, we will notify WFMZ in Allentown. They will post this information on their website (wfmz.com) and also notify WLEV 100.7 FM in Bethlehem of the closing. Even when we have Services, we ask that you use your best judgment for your own safety when deciding to venture out in inclement weather.



January 30 is **Food For Friends**. Please see David Williams if you are willing to volunteer your time or talents.
Call him at 267-377-5610.

**The Quakertown Food Pantry
Join the St. John's Food Pantry Team**

Every fourth Thursday of the month we will be volunteering at the Pantry from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Thank you to all the Food Pantry Helpers!



Birthdays for January



2	Susan Benner Shelmire	18	Larry
5	Durrell Benner	19	Tracey Haelle
	Jeanette Shurow	25	Jessica Bilger
8	Katie Hoffman	29	David Ackerman
11	Jordan Roberts	30	Sarah Lennard
	Margaret Roberts		

Is your birthday missing from the list, please call the church office at 215-538-0875 or email at stjucrichtown@verizon.net. We will be glad to add it to the birthday list.

Kingfisher faith

In a video on his publisher's website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! "And he's the king fisher!" Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don't seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. "What's the point?" we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: "Maybe number 37 is the charm!"

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

Schedule to Serve

Lectors

January	6	Marcella Kulp
	13	Judy Guise
	20	Jade Scholl
	27	Courtney Muck



Greeters & Ushers

January	6	Robert & Joan Kelly
	13	Susan Benner & Jeanette Shurow
	20	George & Carla Spotts
	27	Kenneth & Barbara VanAcker

Offering Processing

January	6	Marcella Kulp, Jade Scholl
	13	Scott Yerger, Karen Bilger
	20	Karen Bilger
	27	TBA

Altar Guild Schedule—Marcella Kulp, Lori Carney

Communion Arrangements January 6—Carole Freed,
Gail Jancsics

Congregation Meeting Minutes for the 2019 budget Approval

December 9, 2018

The congregational meeting to vote on the 2019 budget was called to order at 11:20. Karen Bilger presented the budget to the congregations. We currently have a \$26,000 deficit. This is partially due to the fact that the amount we received from the Anna Neimand fund was lower this year. We will need to borrow money to balance the budget. The pastor's salary was discussed. At this time, we can realistically only afford to pay a part time pastor. The amount is based on the conference guidelines. A motion to approve the budget was made by Dave William and seconded by Lori Carney. The motion carried. At 11:33, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Horton and seconded by Barbara VanAcker.

