



2019 Newsletter

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Reverend Jo Ellen Mauger
4 North Main Street, P.O. Box 356
Richlandtown, PA 18955
215-538-0875

Church Contact Phone Numbers, Email, Website

The Reverend Jo Ellen Mauger—215-872-7515
Pastor Jo's E-Mail—jem7679@windstream.net
Jade Scholl—*Council President*—215-536-6198
Larry Benner—*Organist Choir Director*—215-536-2791
David Williams—*Custodian*—267-377-5610
Office DottiAnne Edmonds—*Secretary*—215-538-0875
Church E-Mail—stjucrichtown@verizon.net
Church Website—www.stjohnsucc.org
Church Office Hours: 9:15 AM to 3:15PM Monday & Thursday

A few weeks ago, The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ – of which St.



John's is a part –conducted its spring meeting at West Chester University. The theme for the meeting was: On the Road Again – Encountering Christ. Our keynote speaker was Brian D. McLaren – pastor, author, activist, speaker – and the content of his presentations were based on his book, The Great Spiritual Migration – How The World's Largest Religion Is Seeking A Better Way To Be Christian.

At the very beginning of his presentation, Brian made the following observations: “In this critical moment in human history, I believe there are really only two kinds of churches, two kinds of Christians, and two kinds of leaders:

Those who actively or tacitly support the current unsustainable civilization ...

And those who are part of a movement to give birth to a new civilization (the “civilization of God” announced and embodied by Jesus).

This requires a conversion on our part, from the assumption that the world exists for the good of the church ... to the conviction that the church exists for the good of the world.”

Brian's words struck me profoundly, because I see St. John's – and many other churches, as well – poised at the edge of a new reality of being church, a fresh opportunity to begin again, to birth a ministry that is a “just and generous way of life;” that engages with those who NEED the care, rather than worrying about preserving the nostalgia of the past, and resisting the change that must occur if the Church is to be viable and make a difference in today's world.

A wealth of information was shared throughout the whole of the spring meeting, so much, that I'm just now beginning to sift through it and assimilate it. In the coming months, I will share more of what we experienced, as I truly believe that the insights shared can help St. John's begin its own “spiritual migration” – if we are willing. Please take some time to give these thoughts both prayer and consideration.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jo

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!!

Dear Friends,

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, July 14, 2019 immediately following the 9:30 AM worship service.

Last October as a result of our four roundtable discussions, we began to explore the possibility of doing shared ministry with another congregation. A potential congregation has been found so **the purpose of this meeting is to formally give permission for this conversation to begin.**



The meeting will be brief, and though I know that vacations and other events may already be on your schedule, it is very important that as many people as possible try to be present for the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there !!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jo

Schedule

July	4	Independence Day Church Office Closed
	7	4 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11	6:30 PM NA Meeting
	14	5 TH Sunday after Pentecost
	15	7 PM Peach Festival Planning Meeting
	17	Church Council
	19-25	Pastor Jo Vacation



21 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Patti Thomas Guest Pastor
25 6:30PM NA Meeting
28 7th Sunday after Pentecost
31 Food for Friends



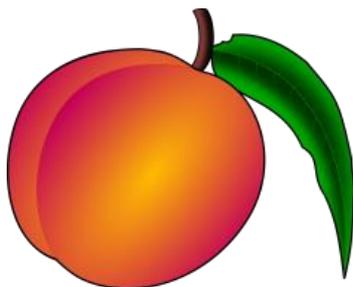
Summer Worship schedule continues at 9:30AM.



Many thanks to our choir for blessing our worship services with your voices each Sunday. Enjoy the summer recess until September.

– Council has chosen the traditional night - the 3rd Wed of August - for our **Annual Peach Festival**.

Mark your calendar to attend on **Wed. August 21, at 6 PM**. Come out, enjoy some traditional festival fare, lots of PEACHES AND ICE CREAM, support the Richlandtown community and our church's effort to promote Christian friendship, fellowship and service!!



Set up will be Mon. 8/19. There is a **GREAT NEED** for help with clean up and tear down after the festival concludes that Wed. night. See the sign up sheets in the Narthex and check the August newsletter for more details.



Contact Jade Scholl (215-536-6198) or Karen Bilger (610-762-4222) to offer your assistance. The committee continues to be interested in the congregation's input and feedback.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Wed. July 15 at 7 PM in the church office. There are many manageable tasks and details that go into making our festival a success. Meetings are generally minimal - usually 2.

This has been a big event for our church in the past. Volunteers, planning and organization are crucial. ***The congregation's support is vital to the success of this event!!!***

FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY – Ken and Babs Van Acker have generously offered to collect and redeem with the state of NY the 5¢/can or bottle rebate which NY offers when they travel north this summer. Remember **SAVE YOUR ALUMINUM CANS, RECYCLEABLE WATER BOTTLES, etc.** Look for the recycling container in the social hall to collect donations!



Speak with Ken and/or Babs for details. Thank you for their willingness to coordinate and carry out this project!!



Our Congregation has a Stewardship Tree. It's located on the Bulletin Board at the Church st. entrance doors. Please take a few minutes to look it over. Add additional leaves depicting service to our community which you have witnessed or provided! Blank Leaves to complete are in the Narthex below the bulletin board. Thanks to Dan Muck for coordinating. See him with questions.

There's a new ministry in the works at St. John's: "Hands of God Crafting Ministry!"

Do you like to make Things? Would you like to learn?
Our God is creative, and so are you!

We have discovered that there is a need
for knitted hats for cancer patients at St. Luke's Hospital,
as well as lap blankets and booties for Phoebe.

If you already do traditional knitting or crocheting,
know how to use a knitting loom, or would like to learn,

THIS MINISTRY IS FOR YOU!

To learn more about what is being planned
and how YOU can be involved
in bringing comfort to our neighbors in St. Luke's and Phoebe,
contact Babs Van Acker at [267-373-9379](tel:267-373-9379).



EVERYONE is welcome – the more, the merrier!

Council Notes.... - Council has instituted new procedures as security measures during worship services:



NOTES

- **Main Front doors** of the church are the only open doors while services are in progress.
- The **elevator** is locked for the duration of the service after the first ten minutes (i.e., at 9:40 or 10:25 AM,).
- The **lower front doors** of the church (Church Street Side) and the **Main Street side doors** are locked (10 mins after services commence) for the duration of the service.
- Contact Scott Yerger (267-718-9563) if you will require access during the service.
- Questions should be directed to Church council or Pastor Jo.

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Thanks to Scott Yerger and helpers for their work to mulch the flower beds, tend to grass cutting and maintenance work on the church steeple lights and property.

Thanks also to Don Edmonds for installing the air conditioner in the window of the Pastor's office and maintaining the window air conditioner in the conference area.

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Church Council Update - June Council Meeting Highlights

Committee Reports:

- The Property/Cemetery Committee was notified Dave Williams is retiring from his position as treasurer of the Joint Cemetery Committee. Council has decided to transfer his responsibilities to the Church Treasurer.
- The Church has received a donation from the disbandment of the Richlandtown Lions Club. Please advise of any ideas on how we can use these funds to give back to the community.
- The sprinkler system is in the process of being repaired.

Other Business:

- Summer Harmony will be performing at our Church on June 30th at 3 pm. Larry Benner noted that tickets are \$15/ea. Larry has advised that we need to sell more tickets!
- The church website will be changing hosts and services to SquareSpace effective in August. Stay tuned for details including a potentially new website (url) address. Feel free to send recent pictures of church events to be posted on the site to the church office via church email at

stjuccrichtown@verizon.net.

- The annual Church Peach Festival will be held on Wed. Aug. 21. Volunteers for peeling peaches, setup, hosting, and cleanup are needed! Please RSVP to Jade Scholl, Karen Bilger.
- The first floor apartment at Steepleview (across the street from the church) is in need of TLC before we can put it back on the market. The first cleanup took place on Sunday, June 23 after the Church Service. The next cleanup was held Tuesday, June 25 at 6pm. If additional dates are needed, come help if able! Thank you to those who offered their time to help 6/23 & 6/25!!
- More detailed minutes will be available upon request after the minutes have been approved at the next meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, July 19 @ 7 pm.
- There will not be an August meeting (Peach Festival Night...!!).



There is one additional graduate to add to our list of those unrecognized in 2019...

Congratulations goes to:



Jolene Lapinski a graduate of Quakertown Community High School earlier in June.

Just a reminder...

Keep collecting Redner's Receipts!!

Our WOW group collects cash register tapes from Redner's Warehouse Markets. Redner's will donate 1% of the receipts submitted to the church.



You can register for a Shopper's Card at the courtesy counter, tell them it is for St. John's UCC. All tapes are appreciated. Please remember to save yours when you grocery shop. A box in the Narthex is where to place your tapes. Thank you. You may also check with Redner's for details.

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Ackerman
Mary Musselman
Louise Plagman

Larry Benner
Terry Musselman
George Schaffer
Ken Van Acker

Joey Leiter
Jacob Pearson
Jade Scholl

*If you would like someone added or removed from the prayer list,
contact the church office (215-538-0875) or inform Pastor Jo.
Thank you.*



Remember our Shut-in with your prayers and cards

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

PRAYER CHAIN -- Prayer is looking to God for His answers and leaving our cares in His Hands. Allow our Prayer Chain to pray for your needs today. Call Marcella Kulp (215-536-5625) with your prayer concerns.



Our **JULY** Birthdays are.....

- 1 Ruth Ann Ackerman
- Bernadette Fournier
- Eric Bilger
- 12 Hope Kendall Thompson
- 13 DottiAnne Edmonds
- Ken VanAcker
- 18 George Schaffer
- 21 Brandon Freed
- 22 Pat Lapinski
- 24 Doris Gottshall
- 25 Don Edmonds, Jr.



- 26 Alice Smith
- 28 Mary Hardcastle
- 29 Linda Kratz
- Jade Scholl
- 30 Kerry Schaffer

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.

2019 Church Council Members

Jade Scholl, President	<i>Council President</i>	215-536-6198
Dan Muck	Scott Yerger	Carole Freed
Eleanor Fly	Beverly Kuhn	Chris Horton

