

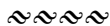
# St. John's United Church of Christ

## September Newsletter

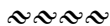
Volume 8 Issue 9

2010

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Labor Day Monday, September 6.



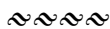
OUR WEEKLY TITHES and offerings enable ministry and mission to happen here at St. John's. That's why we give. We give so that Jesus Christ can be proclaimed in Word and deed. Our vision is to embody Christ's life and teachings in all that we do. We don't give to a budget; we give so that Christ can be proclaimed!



BLESSING OF ANIMALS will take place on Sunday, October 10 at 1:00pm at the church.



PLEASE: when you change your address or telephone number or an email address we can publish, please contact the church office via telephone – 610 933-5311 or email at : [gruber@stjohnsucc.com](mailto:gruber@stjohnsucc.com) or fax us at 610 933-2570.



CHURCH OFFICE hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am until 1:00 beginning September 7. Telephone: 610 933-5311.

### WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

✝ RALLY DAY is September 12. We return to the 'regular' worship schedule with Holy Communion in Leiby Chapel beginning at 8:30am and Holy Communion during the 10:45am service in the Sanctuary. Handicapped accessible Sunday van transportation is always available by calling the church at 610 933-5311 PRIOR to Sunday morning at 7am.

✝ STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH special offering will be received on September 12.

✝ A HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE is held every week on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

✝ ST. JOHN'S offers a van ministry to provide handicapped accessible, air conditioned Sunday van transportation for persons desiring to worship here at the church. To arrange for Sunday van transportation, please call the church at 610 933-5311. The van is wheelchair accessible.

✝ PASTOR'S HOURS are September 22, from 4-6:30pm. Pastor's Hours are those times set aside when folks can just drop by the church office or call on the phone --- no appointment is necessary or needed. And on a first come, first served basis, Rev. Linda will be available to talk,

chat, share, listen, dream of our mission yet to come, offer ideas etc. Call 610 933-5311 or just stop in. The church library is open also. Both doors will be open and Rev. Linda will be in her office.

✝ ATTENTION PLEASE! Beginning Rally Day, September 12 we have a wonderful new educational opportunity for all children --- preschool and elementary, plus youth: we begin at 9:30am as a body for Bible study/story and sharing in prayer (s). Then ALL the kids move into music time! Time for singing and rehearsing the voice; time for ringing the chimes! Time for our children to grow in the Word and in music...all the kids together and separate out for music. Mark that date: Sunday, September 12, beginning at 9:30am. We will begin for the first week in Gruber Hall and then move to various places in the building from there. We want to fill up our rooms with kids learning God's Word and fill up the building with the 'sounds of music', The Children's Choir. Mark that date: September 12, 9:30am.

✝ DWIGHT MARAZAS will present an instrumental solo during the 9:30am service on September 5, 2010.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be fast approaching. This year we will have 3 classes: Nursery School, Kindergarten thru 3rd grade, and 4th thru 6th grade. We hope to see all the kids participate and have some fun while they learn. So join us on Sept. 12th. There will be music, stories, crafts - different things throughout the year. If you would like to join our Sunday School rotation or be just a helper please let me know. We

can always use volunteers to teach, assist, or even come up with ideas for crafts etc. We all can be a part of this ministry. Please contact Mary Louise Miller. ([luckvandlt@aol.com](mailto:luckvandlt@aol.com) or 610-935-9470)



## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**READER'S GROUP** will resume in the fall beginning September 8 at 6:15pm in Leiby Parlor. We will continue to use the Hudson Smith book as we study the world's great religions. In the fall we will discuss Judaism. If you would like to join us for this discussion, let us know by mid-August so that we can secure a book for you. Everyone is welcome. You don't need to be part of the Reader's Group in the past to join us this fall.

**A PRAYER-FILLED** and on-going healing ministry...not lecture or book study but quiet directed time to pray for one another, to pray for healing in our world, to pray for personal and social healing....we will use various forms and styles of prayer over the months. Scripture always, communion sometimes, praying as the church. Directed healing ministry in this way to begin monthly on September 15 at 6:15pm in Leiby Chapel. This group will meet for about ½ hour to 45 minutes.



**HEALING PRAYERS** will begin again each month on a particular theme. At 6:15pm on September 15, join us in Leiby Parlor for 45 minutes of prayer...not talking about prayer but prayer time. As the date becomes closer we will let you know of the theme for September. We are waiting until early September to discern the theme so we can prepare ourselves for what may be happening in our congregation, or community or in the world about which we should pray. Healing prayers are offered for the sick yes, but there are wide ranges of need for which healing prayer can be offered. We will use Evening Prayer as our liturgy for the evening.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR 2011

VBS in 2011 will be held July 18 to July 22 during the evening hours of 6:15pm to 8:00pm.



## THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

What is a prayer shawl? Shawls have come to symbolize peace and spiritual sustenance. The prayer shawl ministry began in 1996 when members of this ecumenical organization donated their time and talents by creating hand knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need both physically and spiritually. The creation and presentation of the prayer shawl enriches the giver as well as the recipient. The guild of St. John's is beginning this as an ongoing new project. Each new shawl will have a short message attached to the shawl and a prayer to read when being comforted with the shawl around the recipient's shoulders. There will be a dedication of each shawl the Sunday morning before the actual delivery of the shawl.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

**OUR ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN** and labyrinth is located behind Fairview Housing at 412 Fairview Street here in town. Each plot holder is required to donate at least 10% of all produce grown on their plot to someone in need within the community. Most donate to the food bank via PACS. Others directly to Good Samaritan Shelter and St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter, Cornerstone Clubhouse and other directly to those who would like to have fresh produce for their family and are in financial need or who have physical disability or mental challenges that prohibit them from getting such healthful food. Support the garden by your visits. Financial donations are welcome. None of the costs for operating the garden come from the parish general funds. Invite the community to support us with their visits and even to garden and help keep the area looking nice by joining the Monday perennial group in weeding. Join the Ernst and Young group of 50 volunteers Friday, September 24, 9am-3pm.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT** as of Sunday, August 22, 2010 :

Amount needed to meet General Fund budget = \$100,504.00

Amount received to meet General Fund budget = \$91,279.52

Amount received **BELOW** meeting General Fund budget = (\$9,224.48)

We are once again well behind in meeting our general fund budget obligations as we soon leave the summer months behind us. St. John's general fund expenses continue each week at \$2,956.00 whether you attend services or not. Please remember to make up your tithes and offerings when you return from vacation.

⌘ PLEASE CONTACT the church with your change of address or telephone number or email address. And remember, you can have your email address included in the parish directory. You can call the church during office hours or leave a message on the church answering machine: 610 933-5311.



⌘ HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE COLONIAL THEATRE RE-CENTLY? If you have been there within the last month you would see the special public relations item on the screen at least two times prior to every event or movie at the Theatre. We can change this information very easily and will keep the community updated on special St. John's happenings as well as worship times using this opportunity. Thanks to Edgar Gottshall for preparing the 'script' that runs on the screen.



ST. MARY'S FRANCISCAN SHELTER needs iced tea mix with lemon and sugar; spaghetti sauce; canned soda for lunches; stamps (Forever are best); gift cares from Giant, WAWa and Home Depot. If you can offer any of these, please take them to the Shelter at 209 Emmett Street or leave them in the Church Office and we will see that the Shelter receives them.

ST JOHN'S BAZAAR is Saturday, November 6, from 9am - 2pm. We will have a bake table, white elephant table and other crafts and items created by our members will be for sale. Of course, the kitchen will be stocked with soups, huluski, filled cabbage, sandwiches, and an assortment of desserts. Volunteers are needed. Any way you can help is most appreciated. Please contact the church office at 610-933-5311.



**ADDRESS CHANGES:**

Sara Anne Brobst  
1616 West Schuylkill Road  
Apartment 263  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
s\_brobst@yahoo.com

Mary Papp  
The Birches, Room 38  
691 Main Street  
Harleysville, PA 19438

Colleen Wilson  
1104 Route 6, Apt. E  
Jermyn, PA 18433-1530

Leonard & Cheryl Brown  
805 Dickinson Court  
Royersford, PA 19468-4343

I would like to receive my newsletter:

- via U. S. Post Office only
- via email link only.
- via both email link and U. S. Post Office

Email address:

Please notify us as to which method you prefer. You can call the church at 610-933-5311 or return this form to the church office. You can also email Rev. Linda at gruber@stjohnsucc.com.



**Twitter Devotional**

THE "Stillspeaking Daily Devotional" is now a daily Twitter "tweet" -- a very compressed form of the Devotional that can easily be accessed on mobile devices. You can subscribe ("follow" in Twitterese) at <http://twitter.com/stillspeaking>. For youth and young adults, this might be a great daily devotional option for you.



## A VBS THANK YOU



I want to thank everyone who made "Galactic Blast" VBS this year a success. The kids seemed to really enjoy themselves. I even had one child who will be too old to attend next year want to help. I especially want to thank Amy Marazas for handling the registration; Carol Gottshall for coordinating the dinner & snack; Rev. Linda for storytelling and doing the mission (which the focus was our community garden); Kathi Woodruff for handling the crafts; and Charlie Booraem for putting the games together. Christina Miller did an awesome job as "Galileo" the green gorilla during our opening and closing and Amanda Monachelli (Christina's friend) assisted us as our "VBS GPS computer". Also my thanks go out to everyone who helped from assisting the leaders, guiding the kids (or chasing them) around, to donating items or making props like Wes Man-

command center, Christina and Amanda's computer or Dwight Marazas' solar system. Christina and Corrine Miller, Dwight and Samme Marazas and Lindsay Van Schalkwyk were a tremendous help preparing the church for VBS. I realize there is a lot of sacrifice and commitment involved to the week of VBS but our children are worth it and we should all be honored to teach the children and help keep God in their lives. For me, that is my reward.

Blessings, Mary Louise Miller

## KID'S KORNER

OUR CONGRATUALTIONS to Christina Miller, who won first place in ceramics, origami, scrapbook page, and painting on wood. She also won second place for mixed media painting on canvas.



AND our own VBS-GPS computer got honorable mention. Congratulations!

## PARISH PICNIC

Fun, Food, Games, EAGLES, Fellowship, Fun, horseshoes, BINGO, volleyball, and FUN all we need is YOU! We will have fun, food and games for all ages.

SAVE THE DATE: September 12 starting at 12:30 PM

Location: Valley Forge Vol. Fire Company at 630 Valley Park Road, Phoenixville .

Bring something to share and your friends. Please email [Edgarsg@verizon.net](mailto:Edgarsg@verizon.net) or call 610-316-6410 with any questions and to sign up or just come anyway! Email the number of people and what you are bringing to share when you sign up or see the bulletin board. Don't forget: if you need transportation, the sign up sheet for the van is on the bulletin board now. See you there!



## GUILD NEWS

As of August 5, 17 blankets have been delivered to be used for Project Linus. They will be distributed to seriously ill children at Camp Dreamcatcher. The Guild has used this as an ongoing project for 5 years and has been able to provide over one hundred blankets.

The Guild has sent several invitations to fellow UCC churches in the area to the Rally Day picnic. Hopefully we will be able to interest some new members in order to keep this group active. A special table will be set up at the picnic and current members are encouraged to attend to meet and greet our visitors. Put this on your calendar and see what we are all about. We need to step forward and find new ways to enjoy and enlarge this special fellowship.



THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE is September 7, 2010 from 1:00-7:00pm at the Baptist Church of Phoenixville, 248 Church Street.

# *Calendar of Prayer — September 2010*

1. Pray for the hospitalized
2. Mary Papp
3. Betty Washington
4. Pray for yourself
5. Pray for the Church
6. Pray for those who labor
7. Pray for everyone starting back to school
8. Pray for those traveling
9. Pray with the Synagogue on Rosh Hashanah
10. Pray for St. John's
11. Cora Miller
12. Pray for our church school
13. Alice Astle
14. Charles Klenk
15. Praise God for the Church
16. Ken McCarraher
17. Otto Goebel
18. Pray with our Jewish sisters and brothers on Yom Kippur
19. Pray for those serving in the military
20. Shirley Yannick
21. Pray for all refugees
22. Mary Vircsik
23. Pray for the Pa. Southeast Conference
24. Pray for parish growth
25. Betty Wilson
26. June Hartman
27. Pray for the financial health of St. John's
28. Pray for our gardeners
29. Emma Eggeling
30. Bill Eggeling
31. Pray for parish renewal



**YOU MAY CONTACT ST. JOHN'S** in a variety of ways! Here are our numbers:

Church phone: (610) 933-5311

Pastor's Cell Phone: (610) 207-6389

Fax: (610) 933-2570

Website: <http://www.stjohnsucc.com>

E-mail: [gruber@stjohnsucc.com](mailto:gruber@stjohnsucc.com)

Pastor's Home: (610) 948-3838

St. John's United Church of Christ  
315 Gay Street  
Phoenixville PA 19460

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SOUTHEASTERN PA  
PERMIT NO. 6142

# September 2010



SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:30am Holy Communion — First Sunday Service: September 5, 9:30am  
10:45am Worship resumes September 12

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL: Resumes September 12, 2010 at 9:30am

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00pm - Holy Communion

## 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 / /

## St. John's United Church of Christ

315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460-3722

610/933-5311 (Phone) · 610/933-2570 (Fax)

**E-mail: [gruber@stjohnsucc.com](mailto:gruber@stjohnsucc.com)**

Website: [www.stjohnsucc.com](http://www.stjohnsucc.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnsucc](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsucc)

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am until noon – Monday through Thursday

Church Office Hours Beginning September 7: 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

The Rev. Linda S. Gruber, OCC, Pastor

Doris Selwitz, Organist Emeritus

Samantha Rodgers, Choir Director

Alex Smith, Organist

Rose Ann Powell, Secretary

Mike Staley, Sexton

Robert P. Verish, Sunday Sexton

Jonathan Amanto, Assistant Sunday Sexton

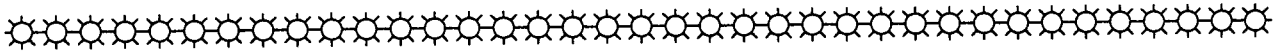
Ministers: Everyone



# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

## RALLY DAY

- 8:30 am Holy Communion and Dedication of Prayer Shawl - Leiby Chapel
- 9:00 am Coffee Hour - Gruber Hall
- 9:05 am Prayer Group - Leiby Parlor
- 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
- 10:45 am Service of the Word - Holy Communion - Prayer Shawl Dedication
- 12:00 to 4:30 pm Parish Picnic (See information below)



## PARISH PICNIC FOR ALL AGES



LOCATION: VALLEY FORGE VOL. FIRE COMPANY  
630 VALLEY FORGE ROAD, PHOENIXVILLE  
12:30pm - 4:30pm

**GAMES**      **FELLOWSHIP**      **FOOD**  
**EAGLES**      **FUN**  
**BINGO**      **VOLLEYBALL**

Bring something to share and your friends. Please email [Edgarsg@verizon.net](mailto:Edgarsg@verizon.net) or call 610-316-6410 with any questions and to sign up or just come anyway! Email the number of people and what you are bringing to share when you sign up or see the bulletin board. Don't forget: if you need transportation, the sign up sheet for the van is on the bulletin board now. See you there!

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



# SEPTEMBER 2010

1

2

6:00 PM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel

3

4

5

8:30 AM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 8:45 AM Prayer Group - Lower Level  
 9:30 AM First Sunday Service with instrumental solo by Dwight Marazas - Sanctuary

6

CHURCH OFFICE  
 CLOSED  
 Labor Day

7

1:00 PM -7:00 PM  
 Blood Drive - Baptist Church - 248 Church Street  
 4:00 PM -6:00 PM  
 Pastor's Hours

8

12:30 PM PACA - St. John's Lutheran  
 6:15 PM Reader's Group - Leiby Parlor

9

6:00 PM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 6:45 PM Handbell rehearsal  
 7:45 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal

10

11

PSEC  
 Ethics  
 Committee  
 - Church House

12

RALLY DAY

8:30 AM Holy Communion and Prayer Shawl Dedication - Leiby Chapel  
 9:00 AM Coffee Hour - Gruber Hall  
 9:05 AM Prayer Group - Leiby Parlor  
 9:30 AM Church School for All Ages  
 10:45 AM Holy Communion and Pray Shawl Dedication - Sanctuary  
 12:30 PM -4:30 PM Parish Picnic - Valley Forge Fire Co.  
 Strengthen the Church Special Offering

13

7:00 PM Consistory - Leiby Parlor

14

10:00 AM Reading Group - New Goshenhoppen UCC  
 12:30 PM PACA  
 6:00 PM -7:00 PM  
 Confirmation Class

15

6:15 PM Healing Ministry - Leiby Parlor

16

6:00 PM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 6:45 PM Handbell rehearsal  
 7:45 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal

17

18

19

8:30 AM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 9:05 AM Prayer Group - Leiby Parlor  
 9:30 AM Church School for All Ages  
 10:45 AM Service of The Word - Sanctuary  
 11:45 AM -12:15 PM Chimes Choir Rehearsal

20

21

6:00 PM -8:00 PM  
 New Event  
 7:00 PM Diversity in Action - Gruber Hall

22

4:00 PM -6:30 PM  
 Pastor's Hours

23

9:00AM -11:30AM PSEC Clergy Gathering - Leiby Parlor, Gruber Hall, and Sanctuary  
 6:00 PM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 6:45 PM Handbell rehearsal  
 7:45 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal

24

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Garden Workday - Garden

25

26

8:30 AM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 9:05 AM Prayer Group - Leiby Parlor  
 9:30 AM Church School for All Ages  
 10:45 AM Service of The Word - Sanctuary  
 11:45 AM -12:15 PM Chimes Choir Rehearsal

27

28

7:00 PM Spiritual Council - Leiby Parlor

29

30

6:00 PM Holy Communion - Leiby Chapel  
 6:45 PM Handbell rehearsal  
 7:45 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal