



St. John's News

St. John's United Church of Christ
 183 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064-2153
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Winter Doldrum Series

Wii Tournament



If you haven't signed up to play in the Wii Tournament, you only have until February 4th. The Wii Tournament will take place on **Sunday, February 11**, after the 10:45 a.m. service, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. in Fraunfelder Hall. We are still looking for fans for our teams and spectators to join us at this high energy, controlled chaos affair. We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 from all who attend. All the proceeds will go to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

This is definitely for all ages, so invite your friends! Team sign-ups have begun in the DeRemer Gallery. Teams will be in groups of 4. If you don't have four members, we will help you complete your team. Other positions available for the tournament are fans and spectators.

Chef Al and his crew will be preparing a delicious variety of food to give everyone the energy to play, cheer or enjoy the tournament. Again, this is a great event to invite family or friends to.



BINGO!

Sunday, February 25

12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Fraunfelder Hall

Admission FREE ~ All ages welcome!

~ **Snack Bar** available with light fare for purchase, with all proceeds going towards the youth mission program.

~ **Prizes** for Bingo winners!

~ **Bring** a neighbor or friend!

Ash Wednesday — February 14

11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Worship Invitation: We begin our Lenten journey with services at 11:00 a.m. (a briefer service) and at 7:30 p.m. Both services will include communion and the imposition of ashes, should you so desire.

Message: **Where is Your Heart?**

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;
 Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21



Sunday, February 25

9:30 a.m.

Fraunfelder Hall

No Church School. Child care available for infants through Grade 3.

Farewell Kathy

Dear St. John's Congregation,

It is with a heavy heart that I must say goodbye to you all. I have decided to end my path to becoming a licensed minister in the PNEC. There were many factors in making this decision and it was not without much prayerful discernment. But the stress of juggling so many things, my job, the internship, classes, homework, etc., were taking a toll on me both physically and mentally and so this difficult decision had to be made.

I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome at St. John's and I will miss you! I pray that the reVision process goes smoothly for you. May you continue to thrive in your ministries and carry out God's will in your congregation, community and beyond!

Sincerely, Kathy Sofie



For the next twelve Sundays (not including Easter), we will focus on the same set of Scriptures for two weeks at a time. The first week will be approached from the perspective of how these passages speak to us individually and the second week, they will be approached from how they speak to us as a church.

February 4 & 11 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Message: **The Appointed Time:**

If Not Now, When?

Scripture: Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14;
Habakkuk 21:1-4

February 4 - Preparing for Worship at Home:

Think about changes or transformations you have wanted to make in your life. Is it time? Do you want to be different tomorrow than you are today?

Worship Invitation: Come consider with us how the world would be different if we were able to be different ... now!

February 11 - Preparing for Worship at Home:

Make a list of how you wish our church might change. Share it with another member of the church.

Worship Invitation: How long have you been a member of this congregation or any other congregation for that matter? How many things has the congregation tried to do, been convinced it needs to do, but the time never seemed right nor the energy seemed right or the energy seemed too low? When is the best time for us to make changes to be more in tune with God and our community today? Think about the kinds of changes we need to be considering.

February 18 & 25 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Message: **Unrecognizable: A Total Transfiguration**

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
Matthew 17:1-13

February 18 - Preparing for Worship at Home:

Are there times in your life when you don't recognize God, or what God is doing all around you? How do you feel at those times?

Worship Invitation: Join us as we consider what transfiguration and change might look like in our lives.

February 25 - Preparing for Worship at Home:

Do you experience God's presence as we worship together? If not, make a list of what might change that for you.

Worship Invitation: Join us as we consider what transfiguration and change might look like in our community of faith.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

— **Dinner at 6:00 p.m.** (suggested \$5 donation)

— **Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

During the next five Wednesdays in Lent, we invite you to join us as we explore some practices of faith. Based upon the book, *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* by Dorothy C. Bass, we will explore the practices of: Honoring Our Bodies, Household Economics, Saying Yes and Saying No, Keeping Sabbath and Forgiveness. Each of these practices are ways in which we live our faith. "A practice of faith is a place where practices provide concrete help for the flourishing of humanity and the rest of creation. Each is the human place where people cooperate with God in doing what needs to be done." We practice our faith just like we practice our part for a play or baseball game, or a delicate surgery. Practice implies an ongoing attempt at living a life of faith while engaging in acts and rituals that shape our life and our world.

February 21 - 7:00 p.m.

We will explore the practice of Honor our Bodies. How we decorate our bodies, how we bathe our bodies, how we touch others and how we use our bodies to move through the world, are all a part of this practice. How do we use our bodies in ways that honor God and each other?

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2 (CEB);
Psalm 139:1-16 (CEB)

February 28 - 7:00 p.m.

Based upon the book, *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* by Dorothy C. Bass, this week we will explore the practice Household Economics. "Home is a place where, over time, we craft the practices by which we prosper or fail to prosper. The practice of Household Economics is about managing the household - arranging what is necessary for the well being of all in the household.

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21 (CEB)
Matthew 7:24-28 (CEB)

Close to God

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space. But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton

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

February 13 - Jean Diehl
28 - Lillian Meixsell



Happy Birthday, with our caring thoughts and prayers.

~ Mark Your Calendar ~

~ March 10 - Game Night
~ April 1 - Easter - 6:00, 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

**Come and say "hello"
to the youth of
St. John's during
hospitality time on
February 11, 18
and 25.**



All Youth Groups

Saturday, February 17 — Snowtubing at Blue Mountain. Meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. and return at 6:00 p.m.

Sparks (Grades 3 -5)

February 4 — It's a Super Duper Day! — Meet at **noon** and bring a bag lunch.

February 11 — Serving at Hospitality following each worship service

Leaders: Connie Rought and Marge Baltz

Xplosion (Grades 6-8)

February 18 — Serving at Hospitality following each worship service

Leaders: Pam Dawe and Connie Rought

Seekers (Grades 9-12)

February 11 — Set your heart racing!

February 23, 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. — An all-nighter... — Baking Moravian Sugar Cake which takes the whole night!

February 15 — Serving at Hospitality following each worship service

Leaders: Pam Dawe, Lori Rogora and MargeBaltz

Summer Crew (Grades 9-12)

February 11, 10:15 a.m.— Meeting time!

February 25 — Man the Snack Stand at the Winter Doldrum's Bingo.

From the Consistory President

Greetings to everyone and I hope you are all off to a fantastic start in 2018!

Your Consistory has been very busy lately as well as many of our committees. The Property committee, along with our building manager, Tony, have been continuing to make sure our beautiful church stays in one piece, the IT Committee is making sure our soundboard, screen, computer software, etc. are functioning properly, and the Finance committee is making sure we are staying on track with income and expenses. As for Consistory, we have been deep in discussions about a multitude of topics including the reVision effort, keeping our church up to date with safety of all kinds, and preparing for our February Congregational Meeting scheduled for February 25 at 9:30am.

It is truly a blessing to have the people we have here at St. John's that help in all ways to keep our church a prosperous one. As a reminder: PLEASE plan to be at the congregational meeting on February 25, and make sure you sign up to be a part of YOUR church's vision in our reVision program!

Thank you, and see you in church!

Matt Sensenig



In case of inclement weather on a Sunday... please call the Church Office at 610-759-0893 and press 2 for weather related information, visit WFMZTV Channel 69 News Storm Center, or online at www.wfmz.com/weather/storm-center.

In case of inclement weather on a **weekday...** please call the church office at 610-759-0893, as the church follows the Nazareth Area School District office/building closures.



From Cecelia Rought: "It was cold on the rink but nice to hang out with friends."

Grace & Syndey ice skating with the Youth Group on January 12.



Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Friday, February 2.



February 11 is Blood Pressure Day. One of our registered nurses will be in the Miko Chapel following the worship services to check your blood pressure.



13th Annual Sportsmen's Dinner and Expo

Saturday, March 3, 2018

6:00 p.m. - Fraunfelder Hall

Expo doors open at 4:30 p.m. ~ Dinner doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Donation: \$15

There will be a congregational ticket sale on **Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Fraunfelder Hall**. Remaining tickets will be sold on Sunday, February 11 after the 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. services in the DeRemer Gallery. This event sells out every year, so get your tickets early. **All seats reserved.**

Menu

Fruit Cup, Relish Dish, Cole Slaw, Venison or Beef Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Gravy, Rolls and Butter, Assorted Desserts, Coffee and Tea ~ ~ Served Country Style

Raffle items are needed — hunting, fishing, camping items or gift certificates are preferred, but they do not have to be outdoor related. All items can be dropped off at the Church Office.

Also needed: baked goods. Anyone from the congregation who would like to donate baked goods for our dessert that evening would be very much appreciated.

All monies raised promote the youth here at St. John's UCC and enable them to participate in activities and events which encourage their spiritual growth. Thank you for your support.



From the United Church of Christ

Thank you for your gift of \$655 received on November 11, to support Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts. Your donation will

help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes.

Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world for all.

— *Mary A. Paxton, Director, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship*

From Lancaster Theological Seminary

Thank you for your recent gift of \$667 in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

— *Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call
Executive Director of Development and Communications*

Special Offerings in February

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

February 4

~ Youth and Young Adult Ministries

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

~ Our Church's Wider Mission

February 18

~ Parish Health Program

February 21 and 28

~ Lenten Offering



Daffodil Sale

SJUCC 4 A Cure is selling daffodils to support the American Cancer Society following each service until February 4. Bunches are \$10, potted mini daffodils are \$15, and \$25 if you would like a gift of daffodils to be sent to someone going through treatment in your name.

Please contact Dolores Kresge for more information at 610-759-0560.



Envision, Revision, or reVision?

by Pastor Jeff

Envision, to imagine as a future possibility; visualize. "She envisioned the admiring glances of guests seeing her home."

Revision, a change or a set of changes that corrects or improves something; a new version of something; something (such as a piece of writing or a song) that has been corrected or changed.

reVision – a little bit of both. This month we are starting the reVision initiative and there is still time to join a small group if you have yet to do so! In fact, if you have not decided to participate, I really want to encourage you to change your mind. I believe that the greatest benefit to participating is personal. I believe sharing your faith reflections, questions and certainties with others is the best possible way to be clearer about what you believe. Not only that, but I believe taking an intentional time to focus on God's activity in your life can only be a good thing.

reVision is not something that will correct something that is wrong with you or with St. John's. It is not a program that has a predetermined outcome. It is not a process that promises us that if we follow these certain steps and follow those certain recommendations, we will arrive at this successful place. It is a process that invites us to reflect and explore. reVision is an initiative that invites us to discern, to listen to what God has to say to us today as individuals and as a congregation. It is a process that encourages us to explore the question, "How might God use me to transform my life and my world today?" It is an initiative that invites us to share this journey of discovery with each other and to share what we 'think' that means for St. John's along the way. reVision might bring about changes in our focus as a congregation, it might result in each of us understanding what God is up to in a new way, or it might just deepen our insight into the ways that the Holy Spirit moves among us.

Since we worship a living God and since the church is a community of God's people involved in bringing the love of God to the world, we know that personal and societal changes are simply part of life. We know that to stop growing and interacting with people and the world around us is to die. reVision offers us the opportunity to come alive to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and it is an opportunity to experience the leading of God. Please consider being a part of this initiative.



St. John's Rummage Sale

On **Saturday, April 14, 2018** we will be having our second annual Rummage Sale with all proceeds going to operating expenses. Items will be collected **Friday, April 6 thru Tuesday, April 10**. Times for drop offs will be announced at a later date. Clothing not sold will be given to the youth for their clothing drive. Other items not sold will be donated to other charitable organizations.

Please contact Linda Danner at 610-759-2610 or ldanner1040@rcn.com OR Sue Wolf at 610-759-8418, with questions. The Women's Association will be selling lunch and having a bake sale. Please contact Dolores Kresge at 610-759-0560 if you would like to donate bake sale items.

Below is a list of categories that **we will be collecting**:

1. Baby Items – NO cribs, car seats, highchairs, or playpens
2. Books, CD's, DVD's – NO encyclopedias, textbooks or VHS tapes
3. Clothing, handbags, shoes
4. Craft Supplies
5. Furniture – very good condition, NO mattresses or upholstered items
6. Holiday decorations – NO Christmas trees
7. Jewelry & collectibles
8. Kitchen items
9. Toys & games
10. Linens, curtains
11. Tools
12. Sporting equipment – NO gym equipment



We **WILL NOT** be accepting any TV's, Computer Equipment or Luggage.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DONATED ITEMS SHOULD BE LIKE NEW OR GENTLY USED.

Thank You!

Those Who Serve ~ March

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.

March 4

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Richard Kraemer
	Sound Board	Walter Fries
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Grace Dawe
	Worship Hosts	Scott & Lisa Hoffman
	Sound Board	Chris Manzo
	Child Care	Beth Sensenig

Counting Chairs — Keith & Janet Schlamp

March 7 - Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Counting Chair — Les Anderson

March 11

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Carl Solt
	Sound Board	Pat Stracko
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Emma Dorko
	Worship Hosts	Joanne & Bill Dorko
	Sound Board	Michael Goch
	Child Care	Lauren Madson

Counting Chair — Peggy Benfield

March 14 - Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Counting Chair — Marie Ashenfalder

March 18

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Richard Garr
	Sound Board	David Weikel
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Anna Estrada
	Worship Host	Nancy Thorne
	Sound Board	John Muscler
	Child Care	Janel Ziegenfus

Counting Chairs — Jerry & Sandra Treon

ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance

December 8:00 - 90 10:45 - 169

Christmas Eve

4:00 - 197 7:00 - 349 9:30 - 215

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, Nicolas Muscler
Editor: Peggy Benfield
Reporters: Pam Dawe, Earl Keller
Photographer: Pam Dawe

March 21 - 7:00 - Lenten Service

Counting Chair — David Blackstone

March 25 - Palm Sunday

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Debbie Claycomb
	Sound Board	Steve Kraemer
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Vanessa Garren
	Worship Hosts	Bill & Ruth Shirer
	Sound Board	Emma Dorko
	Child Care	Julie Schmittel

Counting Chair — John Waha

March 29 - 7:30 - Maundy Thursday

Greeters	2 volunteers needed
Acolyte	Cecelia Rought
Worship Host	Nancy Thorne
Soundboard	Mark Walter

Counting Chairs — Bill & Ruth Shirer

March 30 - 7:30 - Good Friday

Greeters	2 volunteers needed
Acolyte	Katie Madson
Head Ushers	Les & Ruth Anderson
Soundboard	Walter Fries

Counting Chairs — Clare & Aletha Kiefer



The Endowment Committee has received contributions to the Fund during the month of December 2017 in memory of **Elenora Arndt**. A contribution was also received to the Robert Becker Memorial Fund.

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 Endowment Committee: Robert Barnett, Jay Benfield, David Danner, Lou Murante, Steve Kraemer, Matt Sensenig or Pastor Jeff.

Parish Ministrations

Correction

Death

Marilyn Silvius, born November 1, 1925
died December 13, 2017



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

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.

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Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
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LEHIGH VALLEY PA

We are especially thankful for:



- ~ reVision
- ~ Winter Doldrum Series
- ~ Annual Congregational Meeting
- ~ Sportsmen's Dinner and Expo
- ~ Rummage Sale

