

# THE EAGLE

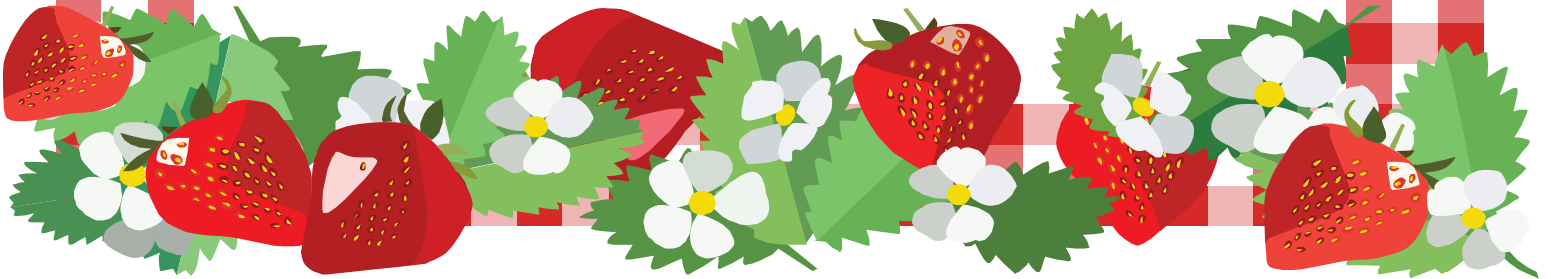
# JUNE

June 3 - Communion

June 6 - Yard Sale - Pavilion - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

June 16 - William Richard Memorial Service - 11:00 a.m.

June 24 - Worship, New Member Reception



DATED MATERIAL

Lewisburg, PA

Permit No. 6

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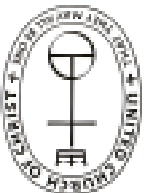
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stjohnslewisburg.org

Lewisburg, PA 17837

1050 Buffalo Road

St. John's UCC





The month of June marks the conclusion of the “minimum of 18 months” stated in my contract with St. John’s as the Interim Pastor. I know: Wow, where did those months go!

Looking at where we find ourselves, to be reported on are the two basic sides to being positioned here in this between-Settled-Pastors time.

First there is the side of what’s going on.

What’s going on is that meaningful worship is continuing, necessary administration and care are being accorded alike to matters of congregational business and to personal needs of the members, and otherwise the priorities of pastoral visitation, adult enrichment, and church growth are being attended to. It’s been a busy and productive time.

The second side is what is still to come.

That begins with the completion of St. John’s “Local Congregational Profile,” which is about 90% ready to be passed along to Penn Central Conference for its review and sign-off. Recently incorporated into this Profile was the final text of a great little prayer developed by our Youth Sunday School Class, one indicating what they’re hoping for by way of the next pastor (see elsewhere in this issue of *The Eagle*). Yet to be received are the statements of a few personal references, asked to share their impressions and experience of us. All in all, however, things are progressing very well in terms of this project.

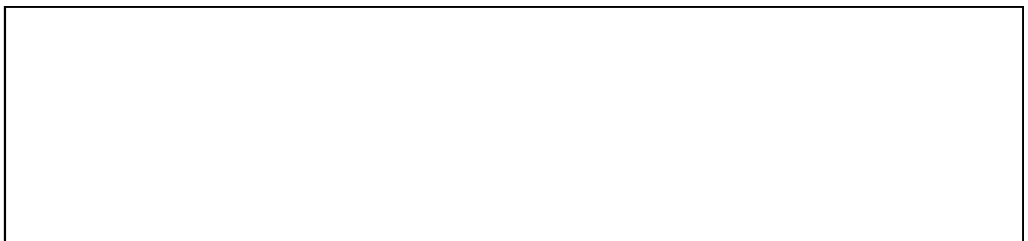
Once the Profile is validated by the Conference, we will be in the position of being able to begin the process of identifying who among us will have the privilege of serving on our Search Committee, of reviewing the professional profiles of available clergy, and of carefully working our way through the pile of possible candidates in order to determine who among them we might be interested in interviewing--all before extending a call to him or her.

There’s no doubt that we’ve come a long way. There’s also no doubt that we have a bit of a way to go yet.

In any case, my basic opinion remains unchanged that St. John’s is a very special place and that it merits calling the best possible pastor to guide it into a bright and productive future.

As we pass this key 18-month milestone, may I thank you for your commitment, encouragement, and patience as we continue to negotiate this experience together.

Cordially,  
Bob Stoudt



## ***JUNE VOLUNTEERS***

Ushers: **BRENDA & DON ADAMS**

Lock-up Person: **RON ZUG**

Lay-Reader: **ANNA BROUSE**

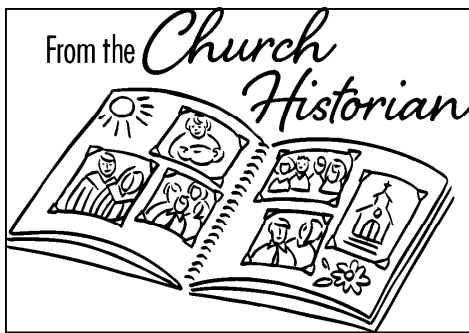
Preparation of Communion Elements: **ANNA BROUSE / DIANNA SPICKLER**

JUNE	Children's Church	OPENER/FLOWER DEL.
3	LIZ DeSANTIS	
10	ANGIE DONLIN	
17	DON ADAMS	
24	LINDA WILLIAMS	

JUNE	FLOWER SPONSORS	Acolyte	Drivers Route 1*
3	KAY & GARY NOTTIS	ERIN DeSANTIS	SPICKLER
10	ELVA & JIM JOHNSON	JAMES DONLIN	ADAMS
17		ADDIE MILLER	SPICKLER
24	PEG BROUSE		BAISH

JUNE	GREETERS
3	MARTHA/BRUCE RAUCH
10	DOT/ART BOWER
17	TESS/FRED GROOVER
24	LINDA & WAYNE WILLIAMS

*If you need a ride to church, please contact Ron Zug (570-523-3987) who schedules the drivers.*



## “Red Book” Memories VI

### *The Choice of a Pastor*

As St. John’s looks forward to its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the congregation finds itself preparing to search for a new permanent pastor. This is something our faith community has done twenty-three times in the past. Given the long history and enduring traditions of our congregation, it could well be imagined that the pastors we have previously called all shared similar characteristics. However, a careful reading of the “Red Book” reveals otherwise.

The people of St. John’s have chosen pastors for a variety of reasons. Some have been called to restore the morale of the congregation and to help establish it as a viable faith community. That was the case for calling Rev. Yost Henry Fries (1812-1839) and Rev. Benjamin Bausman (1853-1859). Other times, we have searched for pastors to challenge the church to practice its faith in new ways, restore its vitality, and grow the faith community. Previous pastors called for these tasks include Rev. Richard Fisher (1836-1842), Rev. Henry Harbaugh (1843-1850), Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart (1879-1885; 1900-1920), Rev. Henry Harbaugh Rupp (1920-1937), and Rev. James Johnson (1970-1996). Still others have been called to maintain the status quo, as exemplified by the ministry of Rev. William Reilly (1864-1868). We have even called a pastor to preach and lead worship in English, rather than German, which was the case with Rev. Samuel Reed (1842-1843).

Each of the pastors that have served St. John’s possessed and utilized unique qualities for the wellbeing of our faith community. Some did have similar characteristics, depending upon the purpose for which they were called. However, for the most part, each pastor was different from the others. The one thing that unites all of them was not their particular qualities, but the fact that each was called in response to a vision that our congregation held for its future.

If that vision was one of maintaining the status quo, then the appropriate individual for achieving that goal was called. If our faith community saw its future as embracing challenge, vitality, and growth, then a different kind of pastor was called to serve. Still, another kind of pastor was asked to serve when the congregation saw increased morale and stability as its future. This is a key point to keep in mind as we enter the early stages of our search for a permanent pastor.

What vision of the future does our congregation possess for the next 5 to 10 years or beyond? Which populations in the Lewisburg area do we intend to serve and how? What kind of pastor will it take to lead us into that vision for our future and help us to make it a reality? Our “Red Book” reminds us that our congregation has had to address these very same questions and others many times in the past, before calling a new pastor. Many voices and perspectives had to be considered. What will our responses be now? Join the conversation and make your voice heard. Our answers will shape our next pastoral call, one that will take us into our next century of service to God and Christ.

Gary Nottis

### **MORE ABOUT “OPEN AND AFFIRMING” (ONA)**

Since writing the first of the *Eagle* articles concerning the UCC’s designation of “Open and Affrming,” the most striking comment that was heard--and heard several times--was, “I thought we were already an ONA congregation!”

It’s not surprising that our folks think that, since the St. John’s culture now is characterized by being both open to all and affirming of a diversity of lifestyles, seen particularly in the gay members that we have had--and have--in the congregation.

Checking the UCC’s directory of official ONA churches, however, one finds in Central Association only two--Shiloh Church, in Danville, and New Covenant Church, in Williamsport. To these will soon be added a third congregation--St. Paul’s Church, Selinsgrove--which recently voted affirmatively to become an ONA church.

In anticipation of formally voting on the matter here in the near future, Consistory is proposing that we take the next several weeks to solicit feedback from our members and friends. A “straw poll” at last January’s Annual Meeting went 32 to 0 in favor of the measure, but we want to be sure that most of our congregation is squarely on board. If you’ve got an opinion, please speak to any member of our Consistory or to Pastor Bob, as our planning moves forward.

If you are someplace on the fence, or if you just want to know more about what ONA is and means, then you might wish to avail yourself of one or more of upcoming “ONA Webinars” being offered by the UCC. “ONA 101” (offered on June 12<sup>th</sup>) discusses the notion in general and details a step-by-step process to go about creating a consensus for it within churches. “ONA and the Bible” (offered on June 28<sup>th</sup>) focuses on the troublesome seven verses in the whole of Scripture’s some 31,000 verses often used to condemn same-sex relationships. One can register for either or both of these webinars, at a small cost for the internet link, through the website “ed@openandaffirming.org.”

### **SO, WHAT NOW?!**

Our worship on May 13<sup>th</sup> was followed by an annual Congregational Meeting. That was no surprise.

Here was the surprise: Ordinarily, this meeting occurs in the interest of electing the members of Consistory for the coming year. This time, it occurred in order to amend our Constitution and By-Laws in a major way.

For many years (decades?), St. John’s has functioned through the agency of elected Deacons and Elders. All that is changed now, as we move instead in the direction of electing people to one of six key Standing Committees.

These primary Standing Committees include Building and Grounds, Christian Ed, Hospitality & Growth, Mission & Social Action, Stewardship & Finance/Personnel, and Worship & Music. In addition to our Church Officers (President, Vice-President, Consistory Secretary, and Treasurer) and Pastor, designated representatives from each of these Committees round out the Consistory. It, as a body of eleven persons, will be responsible for the congregation’s administration and program.

So, now what? As we move into a new organizational design, there is some major work to do between this point and November, when we will meet again as a congregation to elect the Committee persons and leadership for the year 2019.

For one thing, the job descriptions for each of our Committees will need to be reviewed and sharpened, so that we are able more accurately to describe to interested persons what exactly they will be doing if they serve in this capacity. For another, we will need to be recruiting for each of these Committees, to be sure that we’ve got a full complement of the best people serving in the right areas. For a third, we will need to get each of these Committees “up and running” under their own steam (meeting regularly, tackling their respective agendas), so that we can begin to see the development and maintenance of the sort of programming that we are hoping for.

Daunting? You bet! Exciting? Absolutely!

It’s a great time to be part of St. John’s UCC! Get ready to take some part in the promising challenges of the now newly-designed St. John’s!!



**At Home-** Sid Bowersox, Ruth Brouse, Betty Hackenberg, Jim Tomlinson (at home, following an outpatient procedure last week), Mary Stover, Merdyth Updegraff.

**Shut-In/Homebound-** Ann Beasom, Fred Brouse, Leona Fertig, Pearl Fisher, Bill & Lola Fuller, Gary Hackenberg (Rolling Hills Manor, rm #7), Louise Heistand, Lois Hummel, Evelyn Mabus, Ethel Moser, Robert Ritter, Shirley Seese, Alda Wagner.

**In our Prayers -** Marv Border (for the passing of his Mother), Christine Sartwell, Sheila Seaman, Larissa Young.

### **NEW MEMBERS' SUNDAY**

A clear indication that the church is alive and well, it is a highlight in every congregation to be able to receive new members.

St. John's will have the pleasure of doing so in a few weeks, Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> having been scheduled as our latest "New Members' Sunday."

Letters have been sent to a number of persons who, over recent months, have been active in our life and ministry, inviting them to consider formally joining with us. We hope that several of them will respond in the affirmative and figure personally in the celebrating of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Plan now to share in their "big day"! As an additional incentive: A Coffee Hour in their honor will follow worship that morning.

### A PRAYER FOR THE PROFILE

At its conclusion, the Local Congregational Profile asks for a few summary thoughts related to everything else that has been compiled in its many pages.

St. John's final statement will take the unique form of a prayer developed by our Youth Sunday School Class (Daniel DeSantis, Erin DeSantis, James Donlin, and Addie Miller, under the leadership of Liz DeSantis). It goes as follows:

*Dear God, Our wish for the next pastor is to be someone with experience, and with fresh energy. We want him or her to be kind and nice to kids. We would like help planning programs and community projects for us to do. We hope to have someone with an interesting and bright personality, who will make us laugh. Most of all, we want someone who understands us and gives us a good experience at church each week. We ask You, God, to help make this church the best it can be! Amen.*

Beautiful, huh?

### **YARD SALE - JUNE 6, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

St. John's will be having a Yard Sale on **June 6, 2018, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** We are accepting gently-used clothing, jewelry, books, dishes, etc., and ask that you put your donations on the picnic tables in the Pavilion. Please no electronics or large appliances. The Pavilion will be checked daily for drop-offs. **ALL DONATED ITEMS SHOULD BE AT THE PAVILION NO LATER THAN JUNE 1.** Anyone interested in helping with the sale please contact the Church office. We are looking forward to having fun and helping St. John's financially at the same time.



### **DISCOVER AMOS – A PROPHET FOR OUR TIMES**

This June, you are invited to join with the adult Christian education class in its ongoing study of Amos, the challenging Eighth Century BCE prophet who summons all of us to practice an ethical faith. Take this opportunity to explore what Amos had to say and discover how the prophet speaks to many of the issues that challenge us, today.

Our conversations take place in the Library at 9 AM, each Sunday morning. Class discussions will focus on specific issues raised by Amos, enhanced by Bible study, contemporary readings, and instruction. Remember:

There is no cost for any class materials.

You don't need to make a commitment to participate every Sunday. Just come on those Sundays when the topic is of interest to you.

The tentative June schedule of these thought-provoking discussions is:

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ignoring God's Will and Shallow Worship

June 10<sup>th</sup> - Business Practices and Idolatry

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Consequences and Hope

We hope to see you on Sunday morning!



**WORSHIP HOURS**  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org)



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ**

1050 Buffalo Road  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Phone: 570-523-0162  
E-mail: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!



The Communion offering for **June** is dedicated to **Disaster Relief Fund**.  
The Communion offering for **July** is dedicated to **Heifer Fund**.  
**Special June Offering - Strengthen the Church**  
**Thanks for your continued support of St. John's missions!**

**CENTRAL ASSOCIATION INVITATIONS**

The members and friends of St. John's Church are invited to share in the Service of Installation of Rev. John Miller, as Pastor of Urban UCC. This special event is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3 p.m., at Urban Church.

We are also invited to the Ordination into the Christian ministry of Donald Snyder, Jr., currently serving as the Pastor of Trinity Church, in Watsonstown. This Service of Ordination will occur on the afternoon of Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Trinity Church, beginning at 2 p.m.

**Summer Youth Lunch Program**

Once again St Johns is partnering with Bucknell and area churches for the Summer Youth Lunch Program. This program has been providing area youth with healthy lunches during the summer months. The week of Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> is St John's responsibility. The Mission Committee is requesting some helping hands for lunch bag assembly on the mornings of 6/11 and 6/13 from 9:30-11:00AM and the delivery of the lunches to the designated locations on 6/12 and 6/14 at 12:00 Noon.  
Thanks In advance,  
The Mission Committee

**AND NOW IT'S DAD'S TURN!**

We did our best for Mom over Mother's Day, and now, in a matter of weeks, it's dear old Dad who gets all the attention.

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, is Father's Day, and we of St. John's will observe the occasion by giving to all fathers (and all men) at worship that morning a small potted plant.

So, do something nice for Dad! Bring him to church with you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!