



# St. John's Weekly Email

February 15, 2021

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The season of Epiphany - a time when we grow in our understanding of who Jesus is and what he came to do and to be among us. The color for this season is green, so it is a growing season.

Common symbols we see in the season of Epiphany are light and stars. The season of Epiphany is book ended by two festivals - the first Sunday in Epiphany is always the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus, this year celebrated on January 17 and the last Sunday in Epiphany is always the Transfiguration of our Lord, which we will observe on February 14.

*If you have any information to include in the weekly email,  
please submit it to the church office by 7 PM on Sunday evening.*

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## **WORSHIP UPDATE**

At the February council meeting, the council re-considered the question about whether to return to in-person worship or remain virtual. While the transmission rate in Montgomery County is going down, the numbers are still too high for council to feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. So our worship will continue to remain online.

Council will keep the question of returning to in-person worship on each month's council agenda and will review data from local and state government, as well as the transmission rates in our county, each month. At such time as council feels it is safe to resume in-person worship, we will.

Thank you for your understanding of our desire to keep the St. John's community, and all those connected to it, safe and healthy as we continue to live through this pandemic.

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## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

### 3:00-5:30 PM – Drive-thru ash imposition

Pastor Becky will be available at the front steps of the church for a drive thru the circle to receive imposition of ashes on your hand, outstretched through the car window. Masks must be worn by those in each car.

### 7:30 PM virtual worship on Zoom with Communion

Pastor Becky will lead a brief worship service with confession, prayer, scripture, singing and communion to begin our journey into the season of Lent.

[CLICK HERE](#) to connect on Zoom for Ash Wednesday Worship

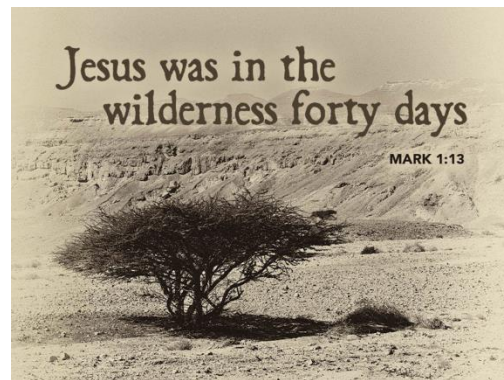
Dial in by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering Meeting ID 826 1567 6070 and Passcode 353929 when prompted.

### *Join us for worship*

**Sunday, February 21st  
First Sunday of Lent  
9:30 AM on Zoom**

[Click here](#) to join us for this service.

Communion will be celebrated so please have all elements ready to share the meal within worship.



Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers:

Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, David Mounts, Ann Lewis, Carolyn Iris, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead and Theresa Hasson.



## **Remarkable Faith Encounters LIVE on Zoom!**

This weekend - pick the time that works best for your family - and they'll be recorded so if you can't make it, check out the recordings on the website.

**Saturday, March 6 - 8:30-9:30 AM**  
or  
**Sunday, March 7 - 8:30-9:30 AM**

**[CLICK here](#) to connect to the LIVE  
Remarkable Faith Encounters!**  
*(the same link applies to both sessions)*

Save the dates for further LIVE Faith Formation Encounters:

March 6/7  
March 20/21  
March 27/28  
April 3/4  
April 24/25  
May 15/16  
May 29/30  
June 5/6

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## **COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES**

It's that time again! We'll be sending out care packages to our college students in the early part of March - and we need your help! The items listed below will be a wonderful treat for our college students to remind them that we love them, are thinking about them, and praying that the semester goes well and that they stay healthy.

All items must be dropped off at church by Sunday, March 7. Here are a few times you can drop them off:

- Sat. Feb 20 - 9-11 AM during Food Collection Drop-off Time
- Sat. March 6 - 9-11 AM during Food Collection Drop-off Time

Please make sure donations are clearly marked - CARE PACKAGES - so they do not get mixed up with food donations for Open Link. If none of these drop-off times work for you, please contact the church office to arrange a time. Thank you for helping us send a box full of love and care to our college students!

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Sign Up Genius sign up page for all items needed.

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## Meal Train for Brian & Jennifer Allebach

As you may be aware, Brian Allebach, former chancel choir director at St. John's, was diagnosed with ALS in 2019. As the disease progresses and life changes for the Allebachs each week, we are hoping to support them in whatever ways we can.

A meal train, to provide one home-made meal two Saturdays a month, has been started. To access the meal train sign-up, see what dates are available and find out all the pertinent information, [click here](#).

Brian also loves to receive cards - so feel free to drop one in the mail to their home address, which is:

**Brian Allebach  
1096 Soffa Road  
East Greenville, PA 18041**

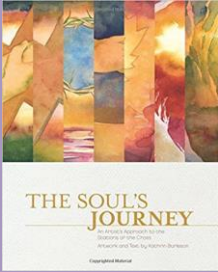
Thank you for your tender care for this family at this challenging time - and watch for new ways to be present with and for them in the months to come.

### WORSHIP IN LENT

**Sunday mornings** – join us as we dig into the theme  
***Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain***  
9:30 AM Sundays on Zoom starting February 21



*In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats – every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation, we exclaim, 'Again?! How long, O God?' And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: 'I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.' Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.*



**Adult Faith Formation: Lenten Journeys of Faith**  
Tuesday evenings starting February 23 thru March 30  
7:30 PM on Zoom

Using the book – *The Soul's Journey* – we will explore the Stations of the Cross in new ways that will open your soul to grace. The book features the paintings of artist Kathrin Burleson as well as soul-searching reflections on her creative process and spiritual journey. Each station offers devotions from key leaders of faith. In these images, stories, and prayers, these stations reflect the Passion of Christ, exploring

betrayal, judgment, and suffering but ultimately celebrating the great triumph of life over death, the Resurrection of Christ Jesus.

### Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Join us as we explore the theme **Created for Community**  
7:30 PM Wednesday evenings on Zoom, starting February 24

Zoom Link for Mid-Week Lenten Worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83316940549pwd=dG9ieVA3WEVMZjIYTIV2ZFFhMXcyQT09>

- **Feb 24** – *In community with creation* – worship provided by Pastor Wayne Moritz and the people of St. Paul's, Red Hill
- **March 3** – *In community with all the saints* – Pastor Becky Schanely and the people of St. John's, Sumneytown
- **March 10** – *In community with our neighbor* – Pastor Nick Pence and the people of Palm Schwenkfelder, Palm
- **March 17** – *In community with those on the margins* – Pastor Deb Schwartz and the people of Friedens UCC, Sumneytown
- **March 24** – *In community with Christ* – Pastor Homer Royer and the people of New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville

Worship will be followed by a fellowship time utilizing breakout rooms on Zoom for small group gatherings.

### Lenten At-Home Service Project

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is in serious need of personal care kits. Their warehouse shelves are nearly empty and they cannot keep up with the demand.

This Lent, St. John's invites you to create personal care kits at home. Make one - make 10. You determine what you are able to give based on your family's personal situation.



**The challenge - we have 200 active families at St. John's - our hope is to collect 200 personal care kits - this Lent!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the LWR website to get all the information you need on what goes in each personal care kit and how to package it. (if you want to participate but need the information sent to you, please call the church office)

**Personal care kits can be dropped off at one of two times:**

Sat. March 20 from 9-11 am (during the food collection drop-off time)  
Sat. March 27 from 9-11 am (when palms will be available for pick-up)

You can also drop off personal care kits at the church office,  
Monday thru Thursday (9 am to 12 noon) the week of March 22.



## Food Collection

**Saturday-9-11 AM to the back entrance- Feb 20th**

### Top Personal Items Needed

- **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- **Hand Soap**
- **Dish Soap**

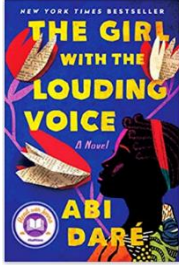
- Tooth Paste
- Body Wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hand Sanitizer

### Top Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Tomato Products
- Canned Soups and Stews
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beans (Dark Beans, Light Beans, Pork & Beans)
- Canned Vegetables (Green Beans and Canned Potatoes)
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Meats
- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta/Rice Sides
- Canned Tuna
- Pancake Mix
- Soups

If you don't feel comfortable going to the grocery store, monetary donations are always welcomed and then we can do the shopping for you! Please donations for Open Link Thanksgiving Collection in an envelope - make checks payable to Open Link.





## February Book Club

**Date:** Thursday, Feb 25 at 7:30pm (Zoom)

**Book:** The Girl with the Louding Voice: A Novel by [Abi Daré](#)

**Description:** The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams. Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping the life of poverty she was born into so that she can build the future she chooses for herself – and help other girls like her do the same. Her spirited determination to find joy and hope in even the most difficult circumstances imaginable will "break your heart and then put it back together again" (Jenna Bush Hager on *The Today Show*) even as Adunni shows us how one courageous young girl can inspire us all to reach for our dreams...and maybe even change the world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to connect or use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86248011123?pwd=Nkt3Y1JkQXN3RDhrcVM5LytIUjJPQT09>

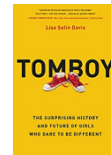
(this link is good for Feb and March's book club meetings!)

## Get ready for next month!

### March Book Club

**Date:** Thurs. March 25 at 7:30 PM (Zoom)

**Book:** Tomboy: The Surprising History and Future of Girls Who Dare to Be Different  
by Lisa Selin Davis



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The cemetery committee will be clearing away any remaining Christmas decorations **on March 1st.**

Please collect or clear away any decorations before that date.

Please call Evey Koffel, if you have any questions.



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## Financial Update



First, thank you to everyone who has continued to maintain or even increase their giving during the

pandemic.

Our committee teams have prepared their 2021 budget with the expectation that we will return to a greater level of normalcy next year building in the internal and outreach events we have been unable to do in 2020. We approved the 2021 budget in our Congregational Meeting on December 6th.

We continue to receive most of our offering through the mail. You are certainly able to continue sending you gifts to St. John's. Our mailing address is **3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA 18054.**



**You can also choose to give online!**

Online your gifts can be designated to general or specific places and can be made one time or set up to repeat. Thank you to all our new online donors! If you have any questions on how to set up online giving, please call the office at 215-234-4888 for help.

We encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider your ability to continue supporting God's work here at St. John's as we continue to live through this pandemic.

Please recognize that we are currently counting offering twice a month - so please understand if there is a small delay in cashing your check.



- February 15**  
 Timothy Benner  
 Austin Davis  
 Marie Frank  
 William Hutt  
 Justine Kulp  
 Maeve Rose  
 Norah Wink
- February 16**  
 Jake Krug  
 Robyn Lane  
 Casey Umstead  
 Sandra Young
- February 17**



Sara Barndt  
**February 18**  
Edward Davidheiser III  
John Lehr  
Amber Szukics  
Sharon Trump  
**February 19**  
Ryan Hart  
Bridgit Holly  
Chasitty Martin  
Landon Snyder  
**February 20**  
Rebecca Flud  
Jennifer Hart  
Jean Leister  
Emmett Nolan  
**February 21**  
Alexander Bardman  
Mia Baringer  
Michael Casey  
Robert DeLong  
Virginia Hawk  
Koen Krewson  
Koy Krewson  
Travis Miller  
Samantha Scott

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[Visit our Website](#)

St. John's Lutheran Church | 3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA 18054

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