

November 23, 2020



## St. John's Weekly Email

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Advent is one of the shortest seasons of the church year but it is rich with meaning and symbolism. The color is blue and symbolizes our waiting and watching - and the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Join us in worship and watch as we light a new candle each week, as the light grows brighter and brighter, while we wait and prepare for the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, to be born.

*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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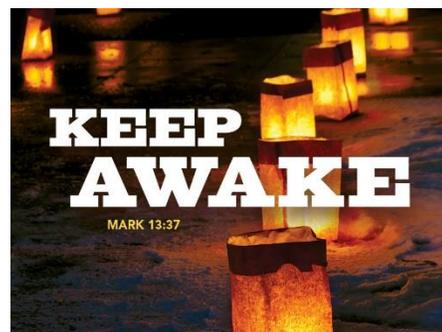
**Join us Sunday, Nov. 29th  
at 9:30am for Worship**

**We have returned to online only  
worship.**

Join us on [Zoom](#).

How do I zoom: [Click Here](#)

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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, Donna DiDio, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, Steve Sanko, David Mounts, Cathy Sweeney, and Barb Klees.

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## 2021 Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for 2021 has been presented by the Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council. Hard copies of the budget will be available in the narthex starting Nov 15 and can be mailed home to anyone who would like to see a copy. If you'd like to request a copy of the budget be sent to by mail, please contact the church office (215-234-4888).

Financial forums are being offered for anyone who has any questions about the budget in anticipation of its approval at the Annual Meeting, which will be held within worship on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 AM.

To access the budget, please [click here](#).

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please save the date – **Sunday, December 6** – and join us for our annual congregation meeting worship service at 9:30 AM online. All confirmed members of the congregation have voice and vote! The meeting business will be interspersed with worship.

In preparation for the meeting, the 2021 proposed budget is available on the church website.



## Pick up Your Advent To Go Bags

As we continue to live into this pandemic and mourn the loss of being together like we're used to in the season of Advent, we have Advent to Go Bags prepared for you to pick up and take home. Resources in the bag allow families and individuals to mark the four weeks leading up to Christmas in specific ways. Bags for families with children and bags for folks without kids at home will be prepared and ready for pick up in time for the start of Advent on November 29.

**Bags can be picked up at a special drive-thru pick up at the back entrance on Saturday, November 28 between 9:30 and 11 AM.**

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## Worship Assistants Needed

As we prepare for a return to in-person worship that is also live-streamed through Zoom, we are creating two new teams to support our worship. The two groups are defined below. If you feel that you could offer your gifts and skills to either team, please contact Vikki Shelor in the church office ([stj.stown@verizon.net](mailto:stj.stown@verizon.net) or 215-234-4888).

- **Zoom Hosts** – the Zoom host is the person who oversees the Sunday morning worship Zoom. This person will admit folks into worship from the waiting room, make sure that participants are muted prior to the start of worship, record the online Zoom service and then advancing the Powerpoint that is used to guide our online worshipers through the service.
- **AV Team** – the responsibilities for our audio team have grown with the addition of live-streaming worship. Once our new live-stream system is fully installed, we will be training people to run both the audio and visual aspects of our in-person and online Sunday worship.

Training will be offered for both teams and a willingness to be in-person for Sunday worship is necessary.

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### Dear Family and Friends of St. John's

We asked and you answered our request for clothing for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation!!

We are humbled at the fantastic response. We received 511 pounds of clothes. Thank you so much!

Along with receiving, we now must ship it. If anyone didn't get the chance to donate money towards shipping, cash or checks can be given at the church office or in the offering place (please make a note in the memo line for Pine Ridge).

Again, our heart felt "Thanks" to all.



## Advent Angel Tree

This year, St. John's will once again join in spreading holiday cheer and sharing the joy of this season with others. As we worship online for the beginning of Advent, the Angel Tree gifts suggestions are all online. Gifts this year will be for Pennsburg Manor and for a local Adopt-A-Family. Follow the link below to sign up for gifts:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-angel>

All gifts must be returned to St. John's by Sunday, December 13 with the gift tag from the tree securely attached. Once you sign up for gifts on Sign Up Genius, gift tags will be mailed home to you to attach to the gift.

Gifts can be dropped off at the back entrance of St. John's on Sunday, December 13 from 1-2 PM. If you cannot make it to this drop-off time, please contact the church office to make alternate arrangements.

## Open Link Food Collection



To maintain our commitment as the **Soup and Stew Congregation** in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, the first weekend of the month this fall will be designated as Soup and Stew weekend! Donations of soup and stew are encouraged on those weekends. Please bring your donations at the following times:

**Saturday-9-11 AM to the back entrance- Dec 5**  
**Sunday-to 9:30 AM worship- Dec 6**

### 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

Top Personal Items Needed

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

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.

## Book Club

### *The Book of Joy*

***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*** is a book by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

In this nonfiction, the authors discuss the challenges of living a joyful life.

Join the discussion on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30 PM.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84889463943?pwd=RkRoOEh4RGhpcXE5K0dvSGhWMFIrdz09>



## Financial Update



First, thank you to everyone who has continued to maintain or even increase

their giving during the pandemic. Reopening for Sunday morning services has given those that feel comfortable the opportunity to attend worship in person.

Our recent hoagie meal outreach provided us with the opportunity to give back to our community.

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 will share the 2021 budget in the coming weeks. Your support is important to our 2021 plans.

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.

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



**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.





**November 23**

Fern Schantz  
Derek Schrauger  
Alec Sprouse III

**November 25**

Lori Graf  
Beverly Lapacchini  
Cathyann Sweeney

**November 26**

Joan Miller

**November 27**

Brittany Deloach  
William Filson  
Leroy Gibson  
Kameron Kulp

**November 28**

James Hehn  
Sheila Hercek  
Deanna Payton  
Elise Rodenberger  
Steven Sassa  
Lillian Schaffer  
Lori Schantz

**November 29**

Jane Lafferty

[Visit our Website](#)

