



## NEWSLETTER

St. John United Church of Christ

150 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

(570) 668-2573

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October / November 2021

## The Journal

### God Separated Light from Darkness

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. (*Genesis 1:3-4*)

The power recently went out in our house. It was dark, so we stumbled around trying to find flashlights, candles, and electric lanterns. We were successful, but the flashlights were in the basement. The candles were on a shelf up three flights of stairs in our attic. When the lights go out, I appreciate any lights we can find. I am also surprised by how dark; darkness can be in our electrified world.

Ages ago when people put together the opening verses of the Bible, they began with some bold statements. First there was a single "God" who created everything. God "created the heavens and the earth." Second, the Spirit of God was present on the earth, from the very beginning.

We perceive that we are separate from God, but God has always been here. God never left. Third, God created light and separated light from darkness.

The first words the God spoke were "Let there be light" and there was light. The light was good. When God began the creation, it was formless and dark. God worked to make it orderly and good. God separated the darkness from the light.

I appreciate that God took it upon himself to repeatedly draw us out of a chaotic void and into his presence.

My wife Maureen and I recently camped out at Tuscarora in a yurt. The first night we camped out and tried to start a fire in a

fire pit. How hard could that be? Apparently, it was harder than we thought. After 20 or 30 minutes, we gave up. Then as I went out to get our lantern a person from the next yurt came over. He had a piece of "Fire Starter." Wow what great stuff that was. It was even greater that he helped us.

We had a fire and light. We had dinner and smores. We had family members come out to join us and enjoyed the night. There was light in the darkness.

Friends, God had a plan that chaos and darkness would not overwhelm us. On our own we can't hold it back. God's Word has come for us in Jesus and darkness will not overcome it.

Pastor Kevin

## Neighbors in Need Offering

The 2021 Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for

American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives,

advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

We will be taking up our special offering for Neighbors in Need on Sunday, October 3rd. Please use the brown pew envelopes for your donations.



## World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 3rd as part of our morning worship service. There are some congregations that have communion every Sunday. Other congregations, like ours, celebrate communion the first Sunday of every month plus on special Holy Days. Still other

congregations celebrate communion less frequently. World Communion Sunday is a day when we recognize the Sacrament of Communion unites all Christians around the world. It stands a special day when we celebrate the unity of Christian and remember the central faith in Christ that unites. Come, let us worship together on October 3rd.



## TAFFN Hunger Campaign:

**Food donations collected for the month of October** will go to benefit the Tamaqua Hunger Campaign. All types of canned goods are welcome. The Hunger Campaign is sponsored by the Tamaqua Partnership and the Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network (TAFFN). More information can be found on the TAFFN Facebook page or on our bulletin boards.



Our annual fall rummage sale will be held in October. Saturday the 2nd, the sale will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Monday the 4th it will be open from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Volunteers are very much in need to help during the sale and afterwards for clean up. Please see Linda Musseman if you can help.

## Trick or Treat: October 30th 6:00-8:00 PM



Once again, St. John will be passing out candy to children who come trick or treating in our neighborhood. This year, trick or treat night will be held on Saturday, October 30th from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Please consider joining us to pass out the candy and welcome our neighbors. We will be preparing the treat bags beforehand and donations of candy are needed. Last year we distributed 100+ bags of candy to neighborhood children. Help us continue to be a place that gives to our community!

## Harvest Home Basket Raffle

We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, November 7th. We will once again be collecting canned goods to support the food bank at Trinity UCC.

Our annual basket raffle will take place during fellowship after our morning worship service.

Donations of gift baskets to raffle off are needed.

Please see Dodie or Ron Sassaman for more



## Please Bring Canned Goods for Harvest Home

Harvest Home will be celebrated on Sunday, November 7th. We will be collecting canned goods for Trinity UCC's food bank to coordinate with our celebration. Monetary donations can also be made using the brown envelopes in the pews. Bring your canned food or other non-perishable items to church on Sunday, November 7th.

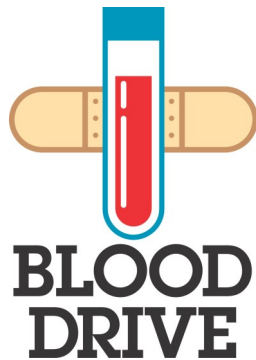


## Remembering Our Veterans

Veterans Day is celebrated each year on November 11th. We will be honoring all veterans present during our morning worship service on Sunday, November 14th.

We would like to thank all members of our congregation who served in the armed forces, and every veteran present will be given a small token of appreciation for their service to our country.

We would also like to encourage our members to show your support for our Veterans by attending the Veteran's Day Parade downtown on Saturday, November 6th at 10:00 AM.



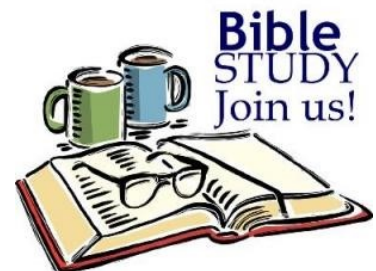
Your commitment to host a blood drive with the American Red Cross on September 8th truly made a difference! We registered 20 total donors, collected 15 pints of blood and

recruited one first-time donor. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply. The next drive will be Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Bible Study

Our weekly adult bible study will resume on Wednesday, October 6th at 6:00 PM.

Each Wednesday group will meet to study God's word. Come, as we grow together in our faith and are moved more deeply to apply the Word of God to our daily living.



## Totenfest Memorial

Totenfest is scheduled for November 21st. During our worship service we will remember members of St. John who have passed away. We will once again have our large carnation cross in the center of the church.

Red carnations will be purchased by the church and placed on the cross in memory of those church members who have died since the last Totenfest.

White carnations may be sponsored for \$1.00 ea. by Church members who

would like to do so in memory of a loved one. Orders are due by November 14th and will be taken by using the brown envelopes in the pews. Please include your name and the name of the person (s) being memorialized. **Please write in pen, if possible.**

## Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, October 10th:** Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Tamaqua Heritage Festival 10AM to 5PM

**Monday, October 11th:** Columbus Day. No School for Tamaqua

**Wednesday, October 15th:** National Boss's Day

**Tuesday, October 26th:** Tamaqua Halloween Parade

**Saturday, October 30th:** Tamaqua Trick or Treat 6-8 PM

**Sunday, November 7th:** Daylight Savings ends. Remember to turn your clock back one hour.

**Tuesday, November 2nd:** Election Day

**Thursday, November 25th:** Thanksgiving Day

**Saturday, November 27th:** Small Business Saturday...shop local!

**Sunday, November 28th:** First Sunday of Advent.

## Holy Communion

Holy Communion is served during our 9:30 AM worship service on the first Sunday of every month. We will have communion on October 3rd, November 5th, and December 5th.

## Nominating Committee

Our Nominating Committee will soon be looking for new members to serve on Consistory for terms beginning in 2022. If you are interested in serving as an Elder or Deacon, please speak to Pastor, or any consistory member.

## Shut-In Members

Each month, the church selects a member who is no longer able to attend church and highlights them.

Please consider sending that member a note or giving them call to let them know their church family is thinking of them.

*Sick & Shut-in*



### October

**Jean Baddick**

1000 Evergreen Avenue  
Weatherly, PA 18255

### November

**Deborah Schuetrum**

426 Rolling Mill Ave.  
Tamaqua, PA 18252

## United Citchen Crew

Our "Citchen Crew" is in need of supplies. Donations of cleaning products such as bleach, Lysol, ammonia are needed as are scrubs, paper towels and magic erasers. Anything you can give will be much appreciated. Donations can be left in the kitchen of the social hall.

## Boyer's Market Cards

If you shop at Boyer's Markets and want to help support the church, we have fundraising cards available. Boyer's will donate a portion of your purchases to the church if you use the card at checkout. We would like to thank everyone who has been using the card. Cards are available at the Pine St. entrance.

## Volunteer and Ministry Opportunities in the Church

Do you want to become more involved in our church? We are looking for people who would be willing to help set up and clean up after our fellowship hour on Sunday mornings.

The United Citchen Crew is also always looking for extra help with their many food sales throughout the year and with our rummage sales.

There are lots of small ways that you can help

around the church. If you are willing to help in any way, the Pastor or a member of Consistory would be happy to speak with you.

## Poinsettia Orders

It will soon be time to place your order for a Christmas poinsettia. We are offering the traditional red, 6" pot. Order forms will be available soon.





## Donations to the Food Pantry

St. John has offered long standing support for the food bank housed at Trinity United Church of Christ. We are still accepting donations of non-perishable food items for Trinity UCC's food bank. Donations can be left in the back of the Pine Street side of church at any time, and we will collect them and deliver to Trinity on a monthly basis. We often remember our neighbors in need when we do our food drive in the fall, but we also strive to help throughout the year and all donations are appreciated.

**Oct.: Soup and Baked Beans**

**Nov.: Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce**



## Prayer Requests

Many of our members are in need of prayer for health and other various reasons. Please pray for those who we know have a need and are found on the following list:

The family of Dan Baddick, Nancy Reese, Nancy Nunemacher, Scarlett Curvey, Josephine Keip, Jean Baddick, Rev. David Knoebel, Beverly Knoebel, Neil Guy, Grace Sakusky, June Krell, Lance Maxwell, Amber Vitanovec, Thomas Bair, Harry MacDonald, Karl Schaeffer, Nancy Eisley, Alma Herring, Wilber Quinn, Larry Bower, Flossie Fegley, Julie Hill, Deborah Schuetrum, David Keip Sr., David Keip Jr., and Cathy Tomchick.

The Prayer List is updated weekly in the church bulletin. If you are in need of prayer, please contact the church office at 570-668-2573 to be added to the list.



## Sponsorships

Our sponsorship books still have many dates available.

Dates can be used to honor, memorialize or celebrate a loved one or an event.

Sponsorships also help relieve financial costs for our church.

Sponsorship binders located at the Pine St. entrance.

**Flowers: \$20.00**

**Bulletins: \$20.00**

**Fellowship: \$20.00**

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## Sponsors

### Bulletins

October 3: In loving memory of Evelyn Curvey by the Curvey family.

October 10: **Available**

October 17: In celebration of Ben Shafer's birthday by the Shafer family.

October 24: **Available**

October 31: **Available**

November 7: **Available**

November 14: In loving memory of Tara Jane Boyle Mirabella by Tommy, Aimee, Amanda, and Makayla.

November 21: In memory of Irma and Bill Miller and departed family members by the Miller and Burns families.

November 28: **Available**

### Flowers

October 3: In loving memory of Evelyn Curvey by the Curvey family.

October 10: In memory of Patricia Kaiser at the time of her birthday by her family.

October 17: **Available**

October 24: In celebration of the 56th wedding anniversary of Dolores and Edwin Miller.

October 31: **Available**

November 7: In honor of our veterans by the Tomchick Family.

November 14: In loving memory of Tara Jane Boyle Mirabella by Mom and Dad.

November 21: In loving memory of Jeff Kaiser at the time of his birthday by his family.

November 28: **Available**

### Fellowship

October 3: **Available**

October 10: **Available**

October 17: Bev and Jim Curvey

October 24: **Available**

October 31: **Available**

November 7: **Available**

November 14: **Available**

November 21: **Available**

November 28: Judy and Dan Slegal



# October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Rummage Sale 9-4
<b>3</b> 9:30 Worship Service / Fellowship Neighbors in Need World Communion Sunday	4 Rummage Sale 10-4 Consistory @ 7:00 PM	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:30 Worship Service Fellowship Pastor Appreciation Sunday	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15 Boss's Day	16
<b>17</b> 9:30 Worship Service Fellowship	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:30 Worship Service Fellowship	25	26 Tamaqua Halloween Parade	27	28	29	30 Halloween Candy Distribution 6-8 PM
<b>31</b> 9:30 Worship Service Fellowship Halloween						

# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5	6 Tamaqua Veterans Day Parade 10 AM
7 9:30 Worship with communion Fellowship Harvest Home Raffle Daylight Savings ends	8 7:00 PM Consistory	9	10 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 to 6:00 PM	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14 9:30 Worship Fellowship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Service / Fellowship Totenfest	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 9:30 Worship First Sunday of Advent	29	30				