

# THE EPISTLE



## Letter from the Pastor

By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

There are a few different things I would like to share and instead of trying to produce what would be weird transitions, I will just separate them by an extra space.

Please plan to attend HOMECOMING SUNDAY (formerly Rally Day).and take note, Worship Services will begin again at 10:30 AM starting that Sunday, September 10. We will have an Intergenerational Gathering prior to Service that day. More information is available in this Epistle.

Our DREAMS and VISIONS Campaign officially came to a close in August. The timing for our campaign has been rather fluid, since the official kick-off date and luncheon was to occur on that first Sunday that we needed to stop meeting in-person because of the Covid epidemic. Given this reality, we wanted to share some notes with you.

(continued on the next page)

## MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

**06 MUSICAL GROUPS  
RESUME  
REHEARSALS**

**10 HOMECOMING**  
(formerly Rally Day)  
An Intergenerational  
Gathering, followed by  
Worship, and an All  
Church Picnic

**24 AFFIRMATION OF  
MINISTRIES**

Cover Image: Picnic at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, sponsored by SPOOF.  
Photo Credit: Jenn Martek

# Letter from the Pastor

By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

(Cont.) To mark the official end of the Campaign, we thought it best to send out letters. Everyone who made a pledge or gave a donation specifically to the Dreams and Visions Campaign should receive a thank you either documenting that you fulfilled your pledge and the amount so we can all make sure our records match, or a letter indicating what you pledged and how much you have given so far. We sent out the latter letters because it is important for us to know how many more funds might be coming in. We needed to take out a loan to pay contractors in a timely fashion and we based the amount of that loan, and the work we could do, on the amount that was pledged. We know some people are continuing to fulfill their pledge through regular giving. We also know that some people have encountered unexpected financial pressures over the last few years. We are hoping to hear from those with unfulfilled pledges as to what they will be able to offer. No strong-arm tactics will be applied. No guilt will be applied and certainly no one should worry if you have just not quite finished offering your pledge. Actually, no guilt will be applied to anyone, but it will be very helpful when you let us know what you likely can offer. As always, if you have questions or need to talk, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We realize some newer members were not here when we began our Dreams and Visions Campaign, and you did not have the opportunity to make a pledge. We still have a number of very worthwhile projects we would love to undertake, solar panels, new flooring in the Common Room, sound softening in Fellowship Hall, upgraded bathrooms that are more accessible, ah, I could keep listing for a while. You get the idea. We will not begin these larger projects until we feel comfortable, we have the resources, and we will not be...

...running another major capital campaign soon because we know people stretched in their giving in addition to their Annual Pledges which they continued. If, however, anyone would like to make a donation or even a pledge spread over some time towards some of these capital projects, we would be more than happy to sit down with you and figure out how to best make that work.

Our Congregation has been extremely generous. We want to celebrate that. Please stay tuned for how and when we will do so. Thank you so much.

"The summer COVID swell is upon us again and cases are on the rise. This is a good time for us to reflect on best practices for safety with regard to respiratory infections as a congregation.

We love having people in the church! But if you are sick, please stay home. It is not worth risking the health of our fellow congregants. Your fever should be resolved for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Your respiratory symptoms should be improving. You should be able to control your runny nose, sneeze, or cough.

If you have COVID, please stay home for 10 days from the onset of your symptoms. If you have a high risk COVID exposure (same room, no mask), wear a mask and monitor for symptoms for 10 days. You do not need to quarantine for an exposure without symptoms. If you want to wear a mask for any reason in the church, please feel free. There are masks at each entrance. There is insufficient concern to mandate mask wearing at this time.

Vaccine update: For those over the age of 60, there is an RSV vaccine coming this fall. There will also be an updated COVID vaccine. There is no reason to get the old COVID vaccine right now. As always, do not forget the influenza vaccine." From Dr. Tom Pineo

As always, we are concerned about your health, the health of our Congregation and the health of those in our Communities. Please act with wisdom and concern for yourself and others. Be safe.

Peace, Rev. John



# In Our Hearts and Prayers

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Jim Barger; Barb Bell; Cindy & Dick Bense; Beverly (Hayden); Braylan; Bria (LaRue); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Cass and Jay (Mullin); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Don Coldren (Grice); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); Mary Cooley (Richey); Donna D'Agostino; Emily Degnitz; Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; Ann Eckman; Betsy Eichelberger; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Mike Greenwald; Harriet Grimm; Michalia Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Chris Harris; Kelly Hartman; Mike Hatz; Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Dan, Will & Jean Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kathy (Simpson); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Chris L.; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Judy Linton & Family; Jess Logan; Lorrie; Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Mary Frances; Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle; Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Carol Moran; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Patrick (Gabriel); Richard & Nancy Reba (Richenbacher); Harry Reidinger; Amy Rhoads; Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Thomas Schwartz (Sizemore); Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; John Shandra; Karen Shapiro; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Alice Suwak; Terry; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).



## NEW HOPE NEWS

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 97 lbs. of school supplies delivered to New Hope for their School Daze Craze. The event was held August 9th and 260 backpacks full of school supplies were distributed. Face painting and games were provided for the children as well as an opportunity to pick out books and other free items. Pizza and snacks were served and a good time was had by all! Thanks for your continued support of New Hope Ministries!

Karen Allison

## ANNIVERSARIES

09/03 Craig & Jennifer Martek  
 09/05 Sherry & Noel Spencer  
 09/06 Scott & Melissa Gates  
 09/07 Nancy & Thomas Richey  
 09/08 Brian & Lori Foust  
 09/09 Dayne & Susan Miller  
 09/11 Eugene & Martha Keith  
 09/13 Ernest & Joan Moyer  
 09/14 Gerald Foulke & Lynn Carson  
 09/17 Zack Fisher & Crystal Cline  
 09/21 Thomas & Jennifer Sheaffer  
 09/25 Ronald & Susan Gabriel  
 09/29 Jim & Leslie Hoehn

## BIRTHDAYS

09/01 Leroy Wentz Jr  
 09/01 Samantha Kiner  
 09/01 Thomas Milletics  
 09/01 Dennis Plymette  
 09/02 Rebecca Thompson  
 09/04 Pamela Smith  
 09/04 Timothy Kern  
 09/05 Audrey Runkle  
 09/06 Charles Miller  
 09/07 Aiden Smith-Hall  
 09/07 Miles Reed  
 09/07 Tina Bowers  
 09/12 Ryan Mullin  
 09/12 Pamela MacKinnon  
 09/13 Michael Aumiller  
 09/14 Justin Steck  
 09/15 Wendi Taylor  
 09/15 Kelly Wentz  
 09/17 David Weiss  
 09/18 Sage Ramsey  
 09/18 Melanie Shaver-Durham  
 09/18 David Grice  
 09/18 Jacquelyn Kreitzer  
 09/18 Anita Miller  
 09/18 Craig Hershey  
 09/19 Sophia Ramsey  
 09/21 Patti Watson  
 09/21 Scott Gates  
 09/24 Janet Wotring  
 09/24 Raelynn Wentz  
 09/25 Joseph Cawley  
 09/27 Grant Jacobsen  
 09/27 Jodean Biss  
 09/28 Donna Sponsler  
 09/29 John Durham  
 09/29 JoAnn Grubbs  
 09/29 Kelli Miller  
 09/30 Craig Martek  
 09/30 Gregory Dickensheets



# Thank you for Serving

Head to our website, under the "sign up" heading, to volunteer.

Sunday, September 3, 2023 - 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, September 10, 2023 10:30 A.M.	Sunday, September 17, 2023 10:30 A.M.	Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:30 A.M.
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
<b>Lector</b> Dennis Plymette	<b>Lector</b> Beth Lengel	<b>Lector</b> Pam Smith	<b>Lector</b> Shirley Knox
<b>Greeter - Common's Table</b> <b>Consistory Present or Past</b> <b>Mem</b> Paula Boyer	<b>Greeter - Common's Table</b>	<b>Greeter - Common's Table</b> Patrice Miller	<b>Greeter - Common's Table</b>
<b>Greeter - Electronic Door</b> <b>Consistory Present or Past</b> <b>Member</b>	<b>Greeter - Electronic Door</b>	<b>Greeter - Electronic Door</b>	<b>Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior</b> <b>Door</b>
<b>Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior</b> <b>Door Consistory Present or</b> <b>Past</b>	<b>Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior</b> <b>Door</b>	<b>Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior</b> <b>Door</b>	<b>Greeter - Electronic Door</b>
<b>Greeter- Communion Server</b> <b>Consistory Present or Past</b> <b>Member</b> Steven Roush	<b>Altar Flower Delivery</b> Dale Thorpe Don Dupes	<b>Altar Flowers Delivery</b>	<b>Altar Flowers Delivery</b> Patrice Miller
<b>Altar Flower Delivery</b> Bonnie Plymette	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Don Dupes
<b>Altar Flower Delivery</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>
<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Bonnie Plymette	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>
<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>
<b>Counting Team Member</b> Dennis Plymette			
<b>Counting Team Member</b>			

To the Congregation of St. Paul's,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful altar  
flower arrangement. It and the prayers  
and support from our church family gave  
us comfort after the passing of my  
Mother.

With much appreciation,  
Merikay Wood

# Events and Announcements

## HOMECOMING

Many people from our congregation have been traveling throughout the summer, while others have enjoyed leisure time closer to home. Regardless of where you've been this summer, we are eager to welcome you back home to St. Paul's UCC. Our Homecoming celebration will kick-off on September 10 at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the start of our new Sunday school year with music and an all-ages activity. We hope you'll join us for Homecoming Sunday, and for Sunday school throughout the year!

Sunday school classes and teachers:

Preschool-1st grade (room 13): Art Williams and Jonneke Dundore

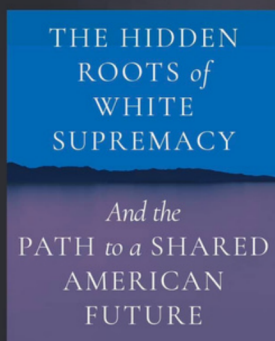
2nd grade-5th grade (room 10): Patty Scott and Val Chapman-Jones

6th-12th grade (room 11/12): Sue Ward-Diorio and Rev. Allyssa Boyer

Adult class (Fellowship Hall): Shirley Keith Knox and designated facilitators

*Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice presents a Conversation with the author of White too Long and The Death of White Christian America*

Robert P. Jones



September 9, 7:00 pm  
Free and Open to the Public

Wesley Union AME Zion Church  
2219 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Harrisburg

## "THE HIDDEN ROOTS OF WHITE SUPREMACY..." LECTURE EVENT

Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice presents a conversation with Robert P. Jones on the topic "The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future." Date: September 9, 2023, at Wesley Union AME Zion Church in Harrisburg, at 7:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

## POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Sept 26 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

## OCTOBER EPISTLE DEADLINE

Monday, September 18, 2023

## PRISM

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on Sunday, September 24th. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore. (717-858-3105)



## JUST PEACE DIALOGUE – SEPTEMBER 17

In 1985, the national setting of the United Church of Christ proclaimed that we are a Just Peace Church. “Just Peace” is defined as “an interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.” It articulates the UCC’s position on war and peace as distinct from historic approaches of crusade, pacifism, and just war theory. Although St. Paul’s congregation is not designated as a Just Peace Church, as followers of Christ, we seek peaceful solutions for conflicts, both near and far. September 17 is Just Peace Sunday in the UCC. As part of our commemoration of that day, our congregation will have the opportunity to participate in a dialogue about peace, war, and other forms of violence. This dialogue will be led by Rev. Allyssa during worship that morning.

A dialogue (instead of a monologue) as the sermon/message is new for us. We’re not quite sure how it will go. But we hope you will be flexible and forgiving as we try something new, and willing to participate in the dialogue. Together we can model listening, reflection, and respectful conversation regardless of agreement or disagreement. We encourage you to ponder questions about peace. For example: In what ways did Jesus practice peace, or violence, in his life? How did Jesus approach/treat his enemies? Is war ever justified? If so, under what circumstances? Is violence as self-defense permissible? What about violence to protect people who are being harmed? Are evil and violence embedded in human nature and institutions? If so, what would a non-violent resistance to that evil and violence look like? These are just some of the questions we hope to reflect on, and speak about, together during worship on September 17. We hope you will join us.

## TECH CORNER

Hill Street Blues ran on NBC from January 15, 1981, to May 12, 1987, for a total of 146 episodes. Perhaps one of the most memorable lines from each show was, at the end of each briefing and before the officers started their shift, the desk sergeant would always say: “Let’s be careful out there.”

Scammers are always trying to find ways to steal your money. One way has been especially effective ... requests to donate money for disaster relief.

The devastation in Maui has been horrendous, and the request for aid is in full swing. But so are the efforts of scammers and swindlers to steal money under the guise of supporting charities. It happens every time a disaster strikes.

What do you do?

- 1.If you’re going to donate money, do your homework and find a reputable source to donate money.
- 2.Avoid the ‘emotional overreaction’ to donation ... think with your head, not your ‘heart’.
- 3.If it sounds too good to be true, IT IS.
- 4.If you do donate to the wrong people, report it immediately.

Remember the desk sergeant from Hill Street Blues: “Let’s be careful out there.”



## **ST. PAUL'S BAZAAR: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023**

Bazaar (Crafts, Bake/Canned Goods sale & Flea Market) 9am - 6pm. Chicken Pot Pie Quarts & Pints served 10:00am - until gone!

Help us get the word out about the Bazaar! Copies of the Bazaar poster will be available on the table in the common area. Ask your local stores and businesses if you can put one up on their bulletin board or windows! It helps a lot.  
Be sure and tell your Family and Friends about it.

There are MANY ways you can be involved!! The online signup sheets will be available on the website Sep. 1, as well as paper versions on the bulletin board in the Commons.

### **KITCHEN**

Chairpersons: Brenda Kern & Patty Scott

Cook pot pie meals, sides, other entrees; run dishwasher; clean kitchen end-of-day. Watch for pre-event food prep dates as well! No experience needed; we provide on the job training! If you can stir a pot, you can do this.

### **COUNTRY CUPBOARD**

Chairpersons: Chris Grice & Shirley Keith Knox

Donations will be needed! Baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. Please drop off your donations Thursday October 5 or early Friday morning October 6. Cookies, brownies and other finger foods bagged and priced to sell for \$1.00 each. We do understand that some items need to be priced higher. Help us out and price your items prior to dropping off.

### **GARDEN SHOP**

Chairperson: Sherry Spencer

Wreaths and mums sales. Looking for donations of gently used wreaths to be repurposed for sale. If you have over-the-door wreath hangers that we could borrow, please bring those in a bag, with your name on it.

### **CRAFTS**

Chairperson: Betty Olsen

Donations are needed! We ask that as you have your crafts ready, please drop them off in the Church office. This will allow us the time to price & organize prior to the rush of Bazaar week. If you have an idea of what your item should be sold for, please price it prior to dropping off. Volunteers are also needed to help set-up, sell items, and clean-up afterwards.

### **PARKING**

Chairperson: Tom Olsen

Assist with parking and traffic flow, especially during peak hours.





## FLEA MARKET

Chairpersons: Dale Thorpe & Becky Thompson

Donations needed—Save that good stuff! We do limit the type and number of items we have in our Flea Market sale so that we have fewer leftovers. Donations can be dropped off now, on the stage. If you have an item that you think we might be able to sell that is not on either list, just ask us about it. Thank you very much for your generosity and understanding!

We will start sorting and pricing on Oct. 2nd and continue through the week. Help is also needed on the day of the Bazaar.

### YES, please!

- Holiday & General Decor
- Linens/Fabric
- Kitchenware (gadgets, bakeware, cookware, etc.)
- Working Tools/Hardware
- Small Furniture (please check with Dale or Becky before dropping off)
- Books
- Toys, Puzzles, Board Games

### Thanks but, NO:

- Sporting Equipment
- Stuffed Animals
- Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, etc.)
- VHS Tapes
- Clothes
- Glassware (glasses, mugs, vases)
- Water bottles

Set-up will be after church on Sunday, Oct. 1st and lots of help is needed! Clean-up will begin as soon as the event ends on the 6th. If you can't come during the day on Friday to help, consider helping with set-up or clean-up.



## MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER

### HELP NEEDED

The last community dinner of the 2023 year is scheduled for Sunday, October 15. The dinner is to be held at the First Church of God located at 28 E. Main St. Dinner service will begin at 5:00 pm. St. Paul's will provide the tossed salad and croutons. (Another participating church is providing the salad dressing). Anyone willing to provide either please contact Paula Boyer by calling or texting at 717-433-1136 or by email at [pbstwins@aol.com](mailto:pbstwins@aol.com). Also needed are volunteers to help set up, serve or clean up on the day of the dinner. A Time to Sign Up to volunteer to work at the dinner will be available mid September. Thank you.





# **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 10 FOLLOWING THE 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE**

## **PROVIDED:**

place settings, water, lemonade, and iced tea

## **SHARE A POTLUCK DISH:**

main dish, vegetable/salad, or dessert

## **AFTER SHARING OUR PICNIC MEAL:**

Enjoy the amazing Carlisle Brass Band!  
Bring a chair or blanket. Free-will offering.

*In case of rain, the picnic will be held in Fellowship Hall  
and the band will perform in the sanctuary.*

***SIGN UP ON THE CHURCH BULLETIN  
BOARD OR ONLINE***



# September 2023

The most up to date calendar is on the church website.  
Help us keep it current by scheduling your events  
at the church through the church office.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:15AM: Worship w/ Holy Communion	4 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study	6 6:30PM: Choristers, Hand Chimes, Youth Choir 7PM: Chancel Choir	7 6PM: PPRC	8 6PM: Pack Meeting	9
10 <b>HOMECOMING</b> 9:15AM: Intergenerational Gathering 10:30AM: Worship 11:30AM: All Church Picnic	11 6:30PM: Rivercity Singers 7PM: PFLAG Meeting	12 1PM: Prayer Shawl 5PM: Finance Meeting 6PM: Caregiver's Support	13 8AM: Pot Pie Prep 6:30PM: Choristers, Hand Chimes, Youth Choir 7PM: Chancel Choir	14 6PM: Den Meeting 6PM: Safety & Security Mtg 7PM: CE Meeting	15 10AM: Room Reservation 6PM: Den Meeting	16 9AM: Community Garden Workday
17 10:30AM: Worship 11:45AM: Called to Care Mtg	18 6PM: Property 6:30PM: Rivercity Singers <b>EPISTLE DEADLINE</b>	19 5:45pm: Consistory	20 8AM: Pot Pie Prep 6:30PM: Choristers, Hand Chimes, Youth Choir 7PM: Chancel Choir	21 6PM: Den Meeting 6PM: SPARCC	22 3:30PM: Wedding Rehearsal 6PM: Den Meeting	23 2:30PM: Wedding
24 <b>AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES</b> 10:30AM: Worship 11:30PM: PRISM	25 1PM: HR Committee 6:30PM: River City Singers 6:30PM: Passages Bereavement Support	26 11:30AM: Pollyannas 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study	27 Kitchen Reserved 6:30PM: Choristers, Hand Chimes, Youth Choir 7PM: Chancel Choir	28 6PM: Den Meeting	29 10AM: Room Reservation 6PM: Den Meeting	30

[HTTPS://SAINTPAULSUCC-MECH.ORG/CALENDAR](https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/calendar)