



UNITED PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL:

Light of Christ
St. John's Windish
St. Peter's

'Till We Meet Again!

Week of July 10 and 11, 2021

IMPORTANT WORSHIP UPDATE

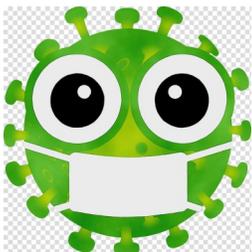
Starting July 4th, the UPG will make several changes as we "return to normal" both inside the church and out! After a motion was passed, the congregational councils decided to return to unmasked worship services, full singing by the congregation, and continuous Communion served down the center aisle. Other church-related events will also be unmasked (unless you choose to remain masked, of course!)

THANK YOU FROM KENDA RILEY

Thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you in various ministries over the past seven years. Your help and dedication made everything that we accomplished possible. Thank you for the wonderful reception on Sunday July 4. It meant a great deal to have so many warm wishes and kind words from so many of you. And of course, thank you for the generous retirement gift. It will be put to good use!!! I look forward to the next part of my journey as a member of the community of faith serving you all as a member of the congregational council.

Yours in Christ,
Kenda

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION (A COVID UPDATE FROM OUR PARISH NURSE)



I have no doubt most of you are aware of the state & national changes that are occurring as related to the COVID-19 mitigation guidelines. At the end of June, in Pennsylvania, capacity limits for businesses & gatherings, as well as mask mandates,

were lifted. The staffs of both the UPG & St. John's Windish Church are also keeping up-to-date on the changes.

As of Saturday, July 03, 2021, the Pennsylvania COVID-19 data is moving in the right direction. The statewide rate of positivity is 1.1%, with 6.7 cases/100,00 population. Lehigh County has a positivity rate of 0.8% & 5.7 cases /100,000 population, to put it in the LOW transmission category. (YEAH!) Northampton County has a positivity rate of 1.2% & 8.2 cases/100,000 population. That county remains in the moderate transmission category.

As such, beginning Sunday, July 4th, 2021, masks will no longer be required to be worn in church buildings. The choirs will be able to sing without masks. The congregations will again be able to sing hymns. Physical distancing will no longer be required between people from different households.

The question that is now running amok in my brain is one posed in a previous installment of these COVID articles. Where do we go from here?

To be honest, that is up to each one of us. At this time, based upon current CDC & state guidelines, it boils down to each individual's comfort level. You do not need to wear a mask indoors (as long as you are in a place where you are comfortable without a mask.) However, you may choose to wear a mask indoors if you want. You may sing along to the hymns in church (as long as you feel comfortable doing so.) However, you may choose to not sing if that is more comfortable for you.

The joint congregational councils have agreed to take baby steps as we attempt to return to a pre-COVID world. Those steps include

agreeing to no longer require face masks; to no longer require physical distancing; to reopen our buildings to outside groups; to return to some in person, indoor meetings; & to begin using a modified process for communion utilizing the center aisle, wafers, & poured wine or grape juice. The councils have also agreed to keep up-to-date on the ever evolving COVID conditions & make appropriate changes, in one direction or another, based upon the data available at any given time.

A UPG YOUTH EVENT AT LIGHT OF CHRIST



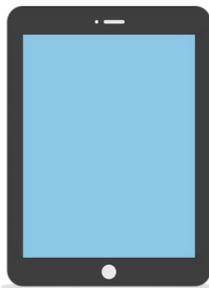
Our Junior and Senior Youth and 36ers gathered together at Light of Christ last Sunday evening, June 25. We spent time together catching

up, eating pizza, tie-dyeing Tee-shirts, playing outdoor games: frisbee, kickball and spike ball.

We ended the evening with a couple rounds of sardines, a youth favorite. Many thanks to our youth leaders for their time and dedication, Tina Piscitello for her help during the event and our youth parents for the snack and drink donations.

BRINGING IT HOME MINISTRY

Do you have a family member or friend who is unable to attend in-church worship, but would welcome the opportunity to share in the same worship and sing the same hymns as those members in church? There still are a few "Bringing it Home" tablets available and learning how to use them is easy.

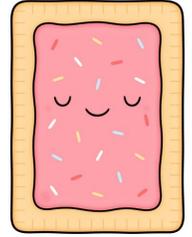


Contact the office at St. Peter's for more information on this exciting new ministry.

PANTRY SUNDAY IS BACK!

On Sunday, July 11, we will collect the following non-perishables for Calvary Templo: pancake

syrup, canned pasta, Pop-tarts, healthy snacks (individual packages of crackers, raisin, nuts), sugar, cooking oil and coffee.



Please bring your contributions to the 9:00 a.m. worship at St. John's Windish on July 11. Thank you for helping to alleviate hunger.

MISSION DISTRICT HYMN SING



On August 18 from 5:30-8 PM, we will join our mission district in singing some of our favorite hymns! Hot dogs and water will be provided. Please bring lawn chairs and a side dish to share.

Pop up shelters are welcome as well.

Arndt's Church (1851 Arndt's Road, Easton) will host the event.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY INGATHERING

Covid caused the postponement of our traditional Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Ingathering last December. The new date and location is July 28th at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church on



Apples Church Road. Items to be collected from the UPG and St. John's Windish are 75 bottles of lotion, 75 women's personal care items, and 360 tubes of toothpaste. Collection boxes will be available on all three campuses from Sunday, May 23rd until Sunday, July 25th, the last day of our campus collection.

Additional items to contribute are new or good used towels, blankets, sheets, pillow cases, caps gloves, mittens, scarves, baby clothes and any new or good used board games with all the pieces, toys, puzzles, playing cards, cleaning supplies, socks and sweat shirts. Thank you for blessing others with your generosity.

UPDATE: As of June 25th, our three campuses have collected 80 tubes of toothpaste,

22 women's personal care products and 29 bottles of lotion. If we are to complete our commitment to the Ingathering, we will still need 280 tubes of toothpaste, 53 women's personal care products and 46 bottles of lotion by the end of our collection time on Sunday, July 25th. Please keep the contributions coming in! Thank you!

WALKING GROUP



Dust off those walking shoes and join the Striders of St. John's and the UPG for our weekly walks continuing in July.

All are welcome, including family, friends, and even dogs (except when dogs are not permitted per the location (will be noted in the location description)!

Weather permitting, all walks begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings from May 6 through September 30. For variation, the location changes each week. Walk for an hour of exercise at your own pace - some of us walk quickly, some of us amble along, but we all have fun! Join us for fellowship and exercise! Let's be good stewards of the gift God first gave us...our bodies. Masks and social distancing are required.

Walking schedule for July 2021:

- **07/15** Sand Island/Tow Path, Bethlehem—meet at the Ice House
- **07/22** Hellertown Rail Trail—meet at Grist Mill, Walnut Street entrance
- **07/29** Hanover Township Community Center, Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem—Meet in parking lot near entrance to playground area.

WEEKLY MAILINGS

If you have returned to in-person Worship and are no longer in need of the weekly mailing packet, please contact the church office.

UPDATE FOR UPG AND ST. JOHN'S

WINDISH REGARDING THE TRANSITION TEAM

Greetings members and friends,

We just wanted to give you a quick update on what is happening with the transition team. The Joint Congregation Councils voted to have the transition team continue their work and after a brief hiatus during Lent and Easter, the Transition Team met on May 25th in person. The Transition Team submitted several reports to the Joint Congregation Councils and hope to submit one or two more for the June 15th Joint Congregation Council Meeting.

The Joint Congregation Council accepted several reports, and we are now ready to begin town hall meetings. The reports are designed to provide a vision of what we could do in ministry if we officially merged or consolidated our three congregations into one community of faith. These are starting points for discussion and we are hopeful that during the town hall meetings more ideas, thoughts, and suggestions would be added to the current vision.

There is still work to be done and the Transition Team will continue their work. We strongly encourage you to read the various reports and come to the town hall meetings to share your thoughts as we continue the work to bring our congregations together. Nothing has been decided and your input is vital to the process moving forward as we continue to deliberate the possibilities of a single united church. We simply have documents to share a vision of what we could do in ministry together. Once the Transition Team completes their work and the town halls meetings have occurred, we will call for a congregational vote in each of our three congregations to determine if we will come together as one congregation. The UPG is already linked as a parish and that will not change unless we all vote to join together.

Please save these dates for town hall meetings:

- **July 25th after the 9 AM worship service at Light of Christ**

- **August 1st after the 9 AM worship service at St. John's Windish**
- **August 8th after the 9 AM worship service at St. Peter's**

Reports will be available at the beginning of July and can be mailed to those who do not have computer access. Reports will be posted on the daily emails, the UPG and St. John's Windish websites. Anyone is welcome to attend any of these meetings. You may attend all three or just one or two, what ever works with your schedule.

We are excited about all the ministry opportunities that we would have if we join together. God is calling us at this time and place to be God's hands and feet in our community.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Mike:

Phone: 832-561-0697

Email: mikebutton1952@gmail.com

Pastor Suzanne:

Phone: 610-217-1375

Email: strump@ptd.net

COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Light of Christ:

- Tom Seifert—president – 610-442-2750
- Sandra Butch—vice president—610-865-6204
- Bonnie Harper—secretary – 610-691-6647
- Nancy Kostas – 610-865-7953
- Donna Mackaravitz – 610-762-4213
- Buzz Heidecker – 610-866-3808
- Jon Terry - 484-633-4448
- Ron Dalla Piazza – 610-691-2694
- Lou Dravec – 610-258-7679
- Mike Truchan – 610-882-1129
- Tina Piscatello – 610-865-0401

St. John's Windish:

- Gina Brockway – president – 610-691-3732
- Kathy Remaly – vice president – 610-807-0126
- Ron Leposa – secretary – 610-865-3523
- Maria Skrilec – treasurer – 610-838-9499
- Migdalia DeJesus – 610-570-1237
- Pam Royal – 484-554-3330
- Penny Weiss – 610-776-1637
- Sandy Vajda – 610-865-2505

St. Peter's:

- Rich Hawk – president – 610-838-2759
- Donna Musselman – secretary – 610-791-1820
- Cindy Kemp – 610-974-9487
- Harmony Gubich – 610-974-9487
- James Ritchie – 610-533-0342
- Lois Ritchie – 610-657-9766
- Michel Lloyd – 484-695-3921
- Steve Granlund – 610-391-1638
- Tracy Heberling – 484-601-2414

