

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
659 S. FOURTH STREET
P.O. BOX 37
DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17517-0037**

Return Service Requested

June / July 2026

Pastor: Rev. Brad Haws
Church Phone Number: (717) 336-7600
Church Email: ChurchOffice@denverstjohns.org
Church Web Site: www.denverstjohns.org

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Happy Birthday To You!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 – Shay Conlin | 16 – Ayden Greenly | 25 – Ernie Dunkelberger |
| 6 – Sylas Miller | 17 – Kelsey Hoffman | 27 – Margiann Burkholder |
| 7 – Amber Bainbridge | 18 – Alissa Martin | 27 – Felix Esparra |
| 7 – Connie Firestone | 19 – Kirsten Leach | 27 – Cathy Robitzer |
| 8 – Waylon Darras | 19 – Maribeth Petery | 28 – Gary Hoover |
| 8 – Phillip Hornberger | 19 – Ruth Witmer | 28 – Tyler Robitzer |
| 8 – John Pfeil | 21 – Stephanie Martin | 29 – Bonita Redcay |
| 13 – Olivia Reider | 24 – Darlene Davenport | |



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 – Cynthia Ott | 10 – Deborah Keener | 19 – Melissa Ross |
| 2 – Bonnie Sweigart | 11 – Oliver Hull | 21 – Susan Ellefson |
| 3 – Emily Brown-Jacobs | 11 – Kathleen Martin | 21 – Christopher Carr |
| 4 – Megan Ernst | 12 – Harlan Martzall | 22 – Sue Gerhard |
| 4 – Tracy Love | 12 – David Pannebecker | 23 – Andy Hornberger |
| 5 – Alice Ann Dinger | 13 – Hannah Schnader | 25 – Shirley Reichenbach |
| 5 – John Maier | 13 – Lori Anne Vollmer | 27 – Cara Miller |
| 7 – Connor Leach | 14 – Cindy Pierce | 28 – Mason Hornberger |
| 7 – Carol Minguez | 14 – Barbara Libengood | 30 – Kensington Hoffman |
| 8 – Troy Burkholder | 15 – Kay Trough | 30 – Evelyn Sweigart |
| 8 – Charles Minguez | 16 – Rowan Warfield | 31 – Marcy Donmoyer |
| 9 – Molly Grubb | 16 – Nancy Bolotine | 31 – Justin Hoover |

If there are any names that should be removed (due to request, passing, or no longer identifying with St. Johns) or names need to be changed, please notify the church office. Thanks for helping keep things up to date.

Pastor's Column: From a Minister to THE Ministers

Once you've read this, we'll be about 3 weeks away from a new season: the Summer of '26. We've also just experienced the last holiday of the Spring and first half of the year – Memorial Day weekend. So we turn our attention to the next “break”: July 4th celebrations.



It's interesting how we are inclined to think about our days in such increments, or seasons. And while experiencing the seasons we navigate our way through by breaking the seasonal months down into days. We especially are more inclined to think of our lives in daily doses, living “day to day,” “one day at a time,” “living/working for the weekend,” “TGIF!” We even give our days feelings; “It feels like a Saturday” is something I'm guessing you said or heard said this past May 25th – Memorial Day; not only was it a holiday, but it was a Monday that felt like a Saturday, and because of that, you were slightly off kilter when you went about your workday or school day or daily activities on Tuesday the 26th. Why? Because it felt like a Monday, but was a Tuesday. Now, of course, we all know the good thing about that, right? It's already Tuesday; we're a day closer to Friday and the next weekend! Woo-hoo!!

See how we do that? How we live incrementally with seasons and days of the week. It's as though we see ourselves as wading, slogging, plodding through the “week” so that we can crawl upon the shores of weekend refreshment and delight, however that may look for each of us. Though all days are 24 hours, all hours are composed of 60 minutes, and all minutes of 60 seconds - whether it's Monday, Wednesday, Saturday - yet, it's certainly how we use and experience those hours and minutes and seconds that determine if we're wading or delighting.

When life gets either overly stressed or underwhelmingly mundane we say, “The days just run together,” or “I don't even know what day it is; they're all the same.”

We are so inclined to miss the day we're in because we're identifying it as “just another day,” or one just like the other; or we're counting it off in preparation for a day we can't wait to get to – be it a Friday, a weekend, a birthday, a start of vacation day, etc. Or maybe it's just another day in a countdown to retirement or some other date-specific special life moment or season.

You've read enough of my Monday, Wednesday, Friday Church news emails, and maybe listened to enough of my Tuesday videos to recognize that I often return to such ponderings as these on days, time, the moment, or, ultimately, paying attention to and appreciating and being active in the present, the now, the day, this day. And perhaps that's because I attribute a lot of my own faith challenges, as well as living out my faith, to this issue of staying mindful of what's right in front of me, whose right in front, what's happening in the here and now.

THIS is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in IT. (Psalm 118:24)

TODAY, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. . . (Hebrews 3:13)

See, NOW is the acceptable time, NOW is the day of salvation! (II Corinthians 6:2)

Summer is upon us. So might be the weekend, or Monday, or Hump Day. But most importantly, it's TODAY, whatever the day on the calendar, the season of the year. Rejoice! Live saved! Praise the Lord!

Hallelujah!

Pastor Brad



AREA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

June 15 - 18: Emerald Crossing (Psalm 23)
6:30 – 8:30pm (4yrs – 5th grade)
St. Paul's EC Church, Reamstown

Saturday, July 11: Build Your Life on Jesus
10:00am – 3:00pm
At the Reamstown Park
(led by Good Shepherd Community Church)

July 12 – 16: Emerald Crossing (Psalm 23)
6:30 – 8:30pm
Reinholds Carnival Grounds

July 12 – 16: True North
Family Dinner at 5:00pm; VBS 6:00 – 8:30pm
Peace UCC, Swartzville/Adamstown

July 19 – 23: Illumination Station
6:30 – 8:30pm (4yrs – 8th grade)
Adamstown Backyard Kid's Club
Adamstown Park in the Grove
272 W Main St, Adamstown

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OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS BACK!

There are three OUTDOOR WORSHIP services planned for this summer:

Sunday, June 28, 10:15am
Sunday, July 26, 10:15am

Sunday, August 23, 10:00am at the Denver Park for our shared worship with Faith Lutheran and Trinity UMC for Denver Days Community Worship.

Bring your lawn chairs, dress appropriately, and come to worship. The June 28 and July 26 services will be accessible live on Zoom as well. (No Zoom for August 23). If there is inclement weather, we will have back up plans to go to the sanctuary. RAIN OR SHINE, there will be worship!

ZOOM ACCESS:
Go to denverstjohns.org and hit the ZOOM/ RECORDINGS button on the homepage, and then ENTER ZOOM button, and when prompted our ID # and Passcode, both are 7173367600

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UPCOMING MEN'S BROTHERHOOD CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH SALES:

Saturday, June 13 11:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, July 11 11:00am – 1:00pm
Help is always appreciated for setup and cleanup.

Summer Fun at St. John's & Cocalico Care Center



ACTS OF LOVE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesdays in June, July & August

Meals will be provided by various churches and organizations of the Cocalico Ministerium and will be held at Adamstown Grove, Denver Park, Reamstown Park and Reinholds Park. Meals will vary each week depending on the group providing the food.

St. Johns will be providing the meal on

Wednesday, July 15. We will be again preparing and bagging 200+ lunches that include PB&J sandwiches, fruit, Gatorade, chips, granola bars, and maybe more. We'll be asking for your help and donations again (including sandwich prep and bagging on Tuesday evening, July 14. Watch for emails or listen to announcements to come.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER FUN EVENTS

Sunday, June 14 at 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Sunday, July 26 at 11:30am – 1:00pm

There is a Sunday, JUNE 14, 6:00 - 7:15pm event AND one being planned for a Sunday in Sunday, JULY 26 after our morning outdoor service at 11:30am - 1:00pm. The details will be announced and emailed, so get ready for some fun, food, fellowship, and faith!

SUMMER FUN AT CCC

The staff and students have been enjoying some slower paced activities together as we spend time in our summer camp sessions.

Bowling trips to Dutch Lanes have started and water play on the church grounds is always a "splash." The 1st - 5th grade students will start field trips out with a trip to Middle Creek towards the end of the month. They also plan to visit the Lancaster Stormers for a game and the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater before the summer is over.

As a cumulative project, be on the look-out for some "crafty" flowers to spruce up our entrance as families visit the building over the next several months.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

**Ashley Martin
(Elizabethtown College, May 9)**

Ashley graduated summa cum laude in English Secondary Education. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Torrie Martin and granddaughter of Lynwood and Ruth Hassler.

Building Our Legacy Update



WE ARE GETTING SO CLOSE!!

Our goals for the Legacy Campaign are within reach. The financial piece is nearly achieved. The plan has been to raise funds that will be matched by our Foundation so that we might:

- 1. Complete necessary upgrades** to our property water run off to address and alleviate drainage issues that have arisen over the years and position us to be able to continue to grow our facility if/as needed.
 - This has been completed as the funds became available.
- 2. Create a Trike Track for our Care Center** children to complement their playground area. This would coincide with the final necessary re-surfacing work on our parking lot
 - These items will be addressed this summer (you might already begin seeing some preliminary work on the Trike Track as of now, with the paving work planned for the end of July)
- 3. Fulfilling our mortgage commitment** for the loan taken out 10 years ago for the addition of our office space and new entrance and renovations to our narthex and bathroom areas.
 - The funds have been raised and goals reached so that this commitment will be met by August.
- 4. The “dream item”** overwhelmingly expressed by the congregation a few years back has been to see a **pavilion** on our property, one equipped with the ability to better accommodate our beloved Cheesesteak sale, along with provide space for community activities, outdoor worship, and CCC events.
 - We are very close to reaching this final goal and are working on solidifying the numbers and costs and plans to pursue this once our goal has been met.

Your ongoing giving to the Legacy Campaign is so much appreciated and encouraged. God has blessed us toward this work in so many ways from unexpected bequeaths to unique and fun fund raising ventures to your personal above-and-beyond giving.

Thank you so very much.

On JUNE 1 the drawing will be for our 5 prize RAFFLE fund raisers. Depending on when you're reading this, you might still get some tickets by calling the church office before the June 1 Raffle date.

AND. . . another BINGO afternoon is being planned for October 11. But this time, it's not just BINGO it's BINGO & BAGS. There will be BINGO going on along with a Cornhole Tournament. This will all be at Iron Spire in Adamstown. Pay attention for more information coming up.

*And pay attention because we're having a **CHURCH PICNIC on Sunday, August 16** after worship to celebrate!!*

Mission Focus for June & July

JUNE: UCC (UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST) CONNECTIONS

2026 GOAL: \$1,000

St. Johns UCC is a church within the larger denomination of the United Church of Christ (UCC). As such, we are connected with the other UCC churches of Lancaster County, as we connect together as the Lancaster Association of the United Church of Christ, addressing issues and concerns within the Lancaster City and County area.

We are also part of the newly formed KEYSTONE CONFERENCE of the United Church of Christ, this comprises the UCC churches of the state of PA area (and, I believe, a couple churches in NJ), again, connecting together to address needs and provide support for one another in that geographical area. The Association meets twice a year with the pastors of its churches and delegates of the congregations gathering for support, worship, information, and ministry. The Keystone Conference will hold its first annual meeting June 5-7 in Millersville, with Pastor Brad and our delegate, Emerson Paul, attending

Our UCC Connection also extends to the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster. This is an historically UCC founded and endorsed school for higher learning in the area of theology and pastoral preparation and education. Many of our church's pastors (including Pastor Brad) have received their education and training and Masters of Divinity degree from LTS.

Your gifts to UCC Connections go toward these ministries that keep us connected to our denominational background and history and remind us that we are more than one church in one community, but part of a larger entity beyond just ourselves.

JULY: COCALICO MINISTERIUM & ACTS OF LOVE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

2026 GOAL: \$1,000

As a church of the Cocalico School District, our Pastor participates in (and currently is the President of) the Cocalico Ministerium. The Ministerium is the collective gathering of the pastors and leaders of churches and ministries in the school district. The group gathers once a month to pray for each other and each other's churches, to hear updates on what's happening in our local churches and ministries and learning of opportunities to partner, serve, and work together to address needs within the school district community.

The Ministerium has a fund used for the discretionary purposes of assisting people in need in the community. The Ministerium works directly with REAL Life Community Services in Denver and Community Hive (aka, Ephrata Area Social Services) and their Social Workers in financially assisting with rent, fuel, gas, lodging, etc. needs as people work through challenges and struggles in life. Our Mission donations to Cocalico Ministerium go toward this fund and the efforts to help alleviate anxieties and pressures related to financial problems.

The Ministerium also works to provide the Acts of Love Summer Lunches. Each Wednesday in the summer various churches coordinate to provide bag lunches for students of the district who might most need and value such food supplies.

St. Johns will be providing the meal on Wed, July 15. More details for how you can get involved will be forthcoming closer to the date.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR ACTS OF LOVE SUMMER LUNCH

Donations needed before Tuesday, July 14

Bread, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Individually Wrapped Chips and Snacks, Fruit Cups, Juice Boxes, Small Water Bottles

Remember In Prayer

Please continue to remember those who have suffered from loss of family, friends, and homes this past year due to terrorism, war, and natural disasters.

If you are going to have surgery, or entering or coming home from the hospital, we would like to hear from you. Hospitals DO NOT automatically notify the church when one of our members in the hospital. If you know of a church member or a family member who is in the hospital, please notify the church office at 717-336-7600 or Pastor Brad Haws at 717-587-3424.



Ephrata Manor:

Dorothy Martzall
Gladys Getz

The Highlands at Wyomissing:

Roland Gehman

Stone Ridge:

Brenda Sheaffer

Keystone Villa:

David & Joyce Wade

Laureldale Skilled Nursing & Rehab:

Larry Weitzel

The Garden at Stevens:

Barbara Hackman

Nevin & Pat McQuate

Ongoing Prayer:

John Brensinger
Dan Fichthorn
Mike & Patty Lesher
Barbara Libengood
Cindy Mattu
Harlan Martzall

Linda Meckley
Ronald Petery
Amy Burkholder Strasser
Sally Sholmartin
Phil & Colleen Hornberger

PRAYER LIST – FRIENDS

Curtis Althouse
Dawn Smith, friend of Dave & Marcy Donmoyer
Ben & Sarah Day, in-laws of Ernie Dunkelberger
Jens Bender & Family
Barbara Martzall, daughter-in-law of Harlan & Dot Martzall
Justin Mattu, husband of Cindy Mattu
Jennifer Hean, niece of Brenda Meckley
Carla Frie, sister of Brenda Meckley
Yuki & Michi, friends of Linda Meckley

Ronita Buskirk, niece of Linda Meckley
Faith Moyer, cousin of Cara Miller
Linda Clark, sister of Janet Neville
Dalton Wieder, cousin of Janet Neville
Karen Woerner Kim, friend of Janet Neville
Brett Meckley, friend of Janet Neville
Caroline Newman, sister of Sally Sholmartin
Margie Strine, friend of Bruce & Karen Sweigart
Chase Weiler, grandson of Mary Weiler
Katie Weitzel & Charlotte Weitzel

OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Members:

Cpt. Seth Grubb

Friends:

Jerry Beck III
Aaron Derr

Ashley Gruebel
Michael Lesher, Jr.

Tyler Moyer
Brett Rettew
Ronald Sweigart

REV 05-2026

If you are able to update us on any of these prayer requests, please contact the church office at 717-336-7600 or churchoffice@denverstjohns.org.

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 RAFFLE DRAWING	2 1:00pm Alter Guild Meeting 7:45pm Bible Meditation	3 8:00am Bible Meditation 9:00am Cocalico Ministerium Meeting	4	5 Keystone Conference Annual Meeting at Millersville	6 Keystone Conference Annual Meeting at Millersville
7 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship	8 6:00pm CCC Staff Meeting 6:30pm Finance Team Meeting	9 7:45pm Bible Meditation	10 8:00am Bible Meditation	11 8:30am Staff Meeting	12	13 11:00am Cheesesteak Sandwich Sale
14 10:15am Worship 6pm Children's Fun Event	15 6:30pm Consistory Team Meeting	16 7:45pm Bible Meditation	17 8:00am Bible Meditation	18	19	20
21 10:15am Worship <i>Father's Day</i>	22 6:15pm EASS Meeting 7:00pm Property Team Meeting	23 7:45pm Bible Meditation	24 8:00am Bible Meditation	25 8:30am Staff Meeting	26	27
28 10:15am Outdoor Worship	29	30 7:45pm Bible Meditation				

Foundation Financial Report: March 1 - April 30, 2026

Checking Account Activity

Beginning Cash Balance - March 1, 2026	\$ 4,899.67
Cash Receipts:	<u>0.00</u>
Total Cash Available	4,899.67
Cash Disbursements:	<u>0.00</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance - April 30, 2026	<u><u>\$ 4,899.67</u></u>

Investment Account Balance

Beginning Balance - March 1, 2026	\$ 1,050,859.84
Deposits / Additions:	
Investment Income	4,100.12
Increase in Value of Investments	<u>14,858.84</u>
	18,958.96
Withdrawals / Deductions:	
Investment Fees	1,904.02
Transfer for Church Operations / Legacy Campaign	0.00
Transfers for Mortgage Payments	13,600.00
Decrease in Value of Investments	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>15,504.02</u>
Ending Balance - April 30, 2026	<u><u>\$ 1,054,314.78</u></u>

Allocation of Account Balance:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Foundation	\$ 921,973.76	\$ 938,583.47
Legacy Campaign	<u>128,886.08</u>	<u>115,731.31</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,050,859.84</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,054,314.78</u></u>

2026 Giving Summary: As of May 24, 2026

	Total Received	Budget	Amount Remaining
Weekly Offering (incl Cap Campaign, Bequest & Memorials)	\$ 105,712	\$ 216,000	\$ (110,288)
Fundraisers (incl Men's Brotherhood)	\$ 12,551	\$ 45,000	\$ (32,449)
	\$ 118,264	\$ 261,000	\$ (142,736)
Missions for 2026			
January - Peter's Porch	\$ 740	\$ 1,000	\$ (260)
February - Good Samaritan Services	\$ 555	\$ 1,000	\$ (445)
March - Ephrata Area Social Services	\$ 770	\$ 1,000	\$ (230)
April - Habitat for Humanity	\$ 540	\$ 1,000	\$ (460)
May - Lighthouse Vocational Services	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,000	\$ -
June - UCC Connections (UCC OCWM, Penn Central Conf, Lanc Assoc.)	\$ 447	\$ 1,000	\$ (553)
July - Cocalico Ministerium (incl Acts of Love)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
August - UCC Homes (incl Ephrata Manor)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
September - City Gate	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
October - Real Life Community Services (incl Power Packs)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
November - Builders of Hope	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
December - UCC Youth Homes (incl Bethany Children's & Hoffman Youth)	\$ 20	\$ 1,000	\$ (980)
Other Missions:			
Meals on Wheels	\$ 510	\$ -	\$ 510
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 365	\$ -	\$ 365
	\$ 5,072	\$ 12,000	\$ (7,053)