

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

**Return Service Requested**

August/September 2025

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

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



# Happy Birthday To You!

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 – Kimberly Coble	15 – David Wade	25 – Joyce Wade
3 – William Koch	18 – Drew Myers	25 – Carmella Hoover
4 – Robin Althouse	18 – Del Rae Pannebecker	25 – David Long
6 – Kevin Hall	18 – Matt Paul	25 – Denise Reardon-Colon
8 – William Rowe	19 – Justin Ulrich	26 – Christie Shade
9 – Richard Palsgrove	19 – Colleen Hornberger	27 – Caitlyn Carr
9 – Addison Strasser	19 – Kasey Hassler	27 – Brenda Reed
12 – Andy Gehman	20 – David Erb (son)	29 – Lauren Leister
13 – John Dinger	20 – Richard Miller	29 – Heidi Hassler
13 – Larry Grill	21 – Brock Showalter	31 – Paxton Sweigart
13 – Christopher Hall	22 – Brennan Mendenhall	31 – Jacqlyn Lash
14 – Lori Wanner	23 – Kaitlyn Werner	



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Tara Heck	9 – Chad Miller	21 – Donald Ernst, Jr.
1 – Dennis Martzall	10 – Shirley Kemper	21 – Devon Fichthorn
2 – Erica Bechdel	11 – Kenneth Grove	22 – Candice Wierzbowski
3 – Barbara Ostapuck	12 – Chester Behney	25 – Robert Althouse
4 – Alexis Vollmer	12 – Corbin Mendenhall	26 – Michelle Adams
5 – Hanah Greenly	12 – Charlotte Miller	26 – Sherri DeWitt
5 – Kurt Reider	13 – Jennifer Maymik	27 – Jessica Esparra
6 – Emerson Paul	14 – Tamara Snyder	28 – Carly Hutchinson
7 – Brock Sweigart	14 – Steven Weber	29 – Ashley Martin
8 – Nicole Warfield	15 – Adam Bechdel	30 – Ashley Fichthorn
9 – Ira Wierzbowski	17 – Jean Kulp	30 – Brenda Miller
9 – Mariah Hatt	18 – John Hassler	30 – Kathleen Scott
9 – Joanne Hoover	19 – Linda Shelly	

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**If there are any additions, corrections, name changes or deletions of members' birthdays, please contact the church office at 717-336-7600 or [churchoffice@denverstjohns.org](mailto:churchoffice@denverstjohns.org).**

# Pastor's Column: From a Minister to the Ministers

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**As I consider this “August/September” edition of our newsletter, the two months designated for the content of this newsletter—August and September—bring to my mind the transition of seasons.**



August always marks the end of summer for me. I'm sure that goes back to childhood when, in my day (the old days), the school year began after Labor Day; Labor Day was (still is) the first Monday of September, and school started the next day. And that meant Summer basically ended with the flipping of the calendar page from August to September. And even if Fall technically only appeared on the calendar three weeks into the month, September still meant Autumn/Fall was upon us. Swimming gear, shorts, and suntan lotion were put away and, whether it really felt appropriate for them or not outside, sweaters, flannels, and blue jeans were resurrected from drawers and closets and readied for service.

**“A famous, beloved passage of Scripture reminds us:  
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”**

Also, the August/September transition always seems to be one that is here too soon. We can't believe it: it seems like only a couple weeks ago we were opening up the pool for Memorial Day; now here we are getting ourselves ready for fairs, pumpkins, and leaf raking. Even with this year's heat waves (I'm typing this as July comes to a close; I'm assuming August will have a few more “Impact Days,” per WGAL), the summer still seems to have whizzed on by.

Seasons come and seasons go, that's why they're called seasons, I guess. Be it summer transitioning to fall, or the move from football season to basketball season, or the coming of hunting season, or waiting for another strawberry season to come, we go through lots of seasons in this life of ours. And it's easy to be preparing for, planning for, anticipating the next season even before it arrives. Again, in this August to September season we close down and shut off much of our summer interests, even as we know September can be as summery as June, July or August. But the calendar motivates the mind to change the thinking from vacationing to schooling, from hot to cooler, from summer greenery to autumn oranges, reds, and browns.

A famous, beloved passage of Scripture reminds us: *For everything there is a season, and a time for*

*every matter under heaven.* The Byrds sang it this way: *To everything turn, turn, turn; there is a season, turn, turn, turn.* Ecclesiastes 3 goes on to talk about there being a time/season for birth, death, planting, harvesting, weeping, laughing, talking, muting, keeping, throwing away—and so on.

I like to consider that passage as stating a very wise point: though it be a season of some sort or another we are experiencing, it is a season of something nonetheless, so appreciate it, value it, take it in, experience it. It is a season—that means it, indeed, will come and go, transitioning into another, new season. Don't put the summer stuff away until summer is past; appreciate, value, take in, experience the summer for all it's worth. Don't let the birth pass into growth so quickly. Enjoy the newborn. Don't rush through the grief so fast; there is much to be valued in the weeping, don't laugh it off.

August has much going on—appreciate it, value it, take it in, experience it. It's a season. September will come; and when it does, appreciate it, value it, take it in, experience it.

Whatever your season right now, it is all, as the Ecclesiastes writer phrases it, under heaven—in other words, under God's hand, God's care, God's blessing.

*Pastor Brad*

# Church News & Announcements

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## GUEST PREACHER ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

**We welcome Rev. George Martz.** Former pastor of St. Johns, Rev. George Martz will be returning to the pulpit to provide the morning message while Pastor Brad is off. In case you weren't at St. Johns during Rev. Martz's tenure, or you'd like to reminisce about where he's been and what he's done:

The Rev. George C. Martz served as Pastor of St. John's UCC from 1978 – 1998. From 1998 until his retirement January 2006 he served in Landisburg, PA where he helped merge three congregations into New Hope UCC. In 2002 George received the Alan S. Meck Award for excellence in ministry from Lancaster Seminary. In retirement Pastor Martz served as interim Pastor in a number of congregations until 2020, after which he has filled in for vacations and emergencies. Pastor Martz has also been active

in the wider church all of his ministry. He has been a delegate to three General Synods and visitor to one. He has also served as Adjunct Professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

George is married to Phyllis Crytzer Martz; they reside at 20 E. Main Street, New Bloomfield, PA 17068-0358, which is Phyllis' family home. The Martz's have three children – Calvin, deceased, Christine and Victoria (Mrs. Martin) Velez – three grandchildren and one great grandchild.



## MISSION MOMENT: AUGUST

**And speaking of Victoria Velez – she will be our Mission Moment speaker on Sunday, August 3** as she shares with us regarding our August Month Mission Partner, UCC Homes (Ephrata Manor). Victoria serves as Director of Public Relations and Fund Development for UCC Homes.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TO RESUME

**Starting Sunday, September 7 at 9am we will again have an Adult Sunday School class** meeting in the Conference Room and accessible on zoom. Pastor Brad will be leading the class through Paul's letter to the **COLOSSIANS**.

## FROM OUT OF SUMMER INTO “NORMAL” TIME

**Celebration Sunday**  
**Sunday, September 7 at 10:15am**

### “Celebrating the Glory of God”

As we move our minds, attitudes, and senses from the frills and frolicking of summer to the... well, why not the frills and frolicking of non-summer! Move from worshipping God on vacation—from the beach, in a hotel, on the go, at the pool, or the reunion—to worshipping God in the sanctuary, the classroom and at home.



# Mission Focus for August & September

Each month the Mission Team attempts to lift up one of our partners in ministry that we support here at St. Johns. We try to have a “Mission Moment” during worship on one of the specified Sundays of each month, bringing in a representative from the partner ministry to share an update with us regarding what’s happening and possible ways for volunteering and/or otherwise addressing needs the ministry has or efforts and work the ministry is undertaking.

Throughout each month the congregation is encouraged to consider offering a gift to the ministry being profiled, though this can be done anytime throughout the year (simply use your offering envelope and indicate what ministry you would like to support).



## AUGUST MISSION: UCC HOMES

This Penn Central Conference based ministry of six retirement and nursing homes, (i.e. Ephrata Manor) helps senior citizens to have a secure place to live in a retirement community.

**“...helps senior citizens to have a secure place to live in a retirement community.”**

Services include cottages, apartments, assisted living (personal care), skilled care (nursing care), and rehabilitation services. St. Johns also provides gift cards and donations for Christmas gifts for residents.

*Mission Moment Speaker, Victoria Valez, will join us Sunday, August 3.*



## SEPTEMBER MISSION: CITY GATE

City Gate is a ministry located on Main Street in Ephrata, the vision of which is to offer a safe place for those who need one by building authentic relationships through coffee, food, and conversation.

**“...offers a safe place for those who need one by building authentic relationships through coffee, food and conversation.”**

They offer churches the opportunity to get out of their building by sponsoring and serving free community lunches on Saturdays. They hold Bible studies, prayer groups, praise and worship nights and support groups including Main Point Ministries and Celebrate Recovery (a Christian-based recovery group). City Gate is a street level ministry serving those who may be without a home and those who may struggle with addictions and mental health issues.

*Mission Moment Speaker, Kim Warner, will join us Sunday, September 14.*

*Thank you!*



## Summer Happenings at St. John's UCC

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### SUMMER COMMUNION

Join us for Communion during our Sunday, August 10 worship service.



### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Please join us for our annual church picnic on Sunday, August 17, after worship at St. John's UCC.

The excellent barbecue ribs of Andy Gehman and Cory McQuate will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

We are planning for some games for the children, fellowship for the adults and most importantly, a time to be together in fellowship with one another. We look forward to seeing you all there!

### ANNUAL "DENVER DAYS WORSHIP SERVICE" AT 10AM

Sunday, August 24 at 10am in Denver Memorial Park, 801 Main Street, Denver, PA

Join with our brothers and sisters from Trinity UMC, Faith Lutheran and the community at large as we unite together in worship as the people of Denver. FREE Boehringer's Ice Cream after worship in the Park Pavilion.

*Note: There will be NO service at St. Johns. We will be at the park at 10am. Also NO zoom for that day.*

### UPCOMING MEN'S BROTHERHOOD STEAK SANDWICH SALES

Saturday, August 9, 11am-1pm  
Saturday, September 13, 11am-1pm

Help is appreciated 10:30am-1:30pm for setup and clean up.

### NEXT CHILDREN'S FUN EVENT

Sunday, September 7, 6pm-7:15pm  
Theme: Sports & God

All children and their parents and grandparents are invited to a time of fun, fellowship, food and faith. These fun events include an engaging lesson, craft, games and fun snack.

*see you there!*

# Cocalico Care Center News

**Summer has passed quickly and the 2025-2026 school year session will be up and running shortly.** The staff and students of the Cocalico Care Center have enjoyed outdoor games, watching the heavy equipment as work was done on the water management project, as well as participating in field trips to places like Dutch Lanes, Middle Creek, and the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, just to name a few.

**“We look forward to welcoming back some of our students that took the summer off with family and friends as well as meeting the new Elm children that will begin their school year.”**

At the end of the month we look forward to welcoming back some of our students that took the summer off with family and friends as well as meeting the new Elm children that will begin their school year with Ms. Stephanie Martin in

early September. Our hope is to have four full-day preschool classrooms up and running by mid-September as well as over 80 school age children visiting before and after school as the new year begins.

## WE INVITE YOU TO OUR FAMILY CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP SERIES:

**Join us for a series of parent workshops** designed to foster positive family connections through simple, yet meaningful, changes. We'll explore topics such as mealtime routines, the importance of daily rituals, and reducing screen time to create more space for meaningful connection. A shared meal will be provided at 5:45 PM, and childcare is available during the event.

Can't attend in person? Join us via Zoom! We'll share practical strategies and support one another in creating more connected family moments. We hope you can join us!



**August 14, 2025:** Reducing Screen Time For More Family Connection



**6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**



**SignUpGenius**



**Zoom Link**





**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. Due to HIPPA health care regulations, hospitals DO NOT automatically notify the church when one of our members is 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.

**Stone Ridge**

Brenda Sheaffer

**Monarch Cottages**

Larry Weitzel

**The Garden at Stevens**

Richard & Barbara Hackman

**Ephrata Manor**

Gladys Getz

**The Highlands at Wyomissing**

Roland Gehman

**Maple Farms**

Helen Strohl (Bonnie Redcay mother)

**Keystone Villa**

David & Joyce Wade

**Ongoing Prayer**

John Brensinger

Amy Burkholder Strasser

Barbara Libengood

Cindy Mattu

Phil & Sis Hornberger

Ronald Petery

Mike & Patty Leshner

Sally Sholmartin

Linda Meckley

Jean Shober

**Prayer List – Friends**

Jens Bender and Family

Carla Frie, sister of Brenda Meckley

Helen Sharpe, sister of Mary Weiler

Rev. George & Phyllis Martz

Chase Weiler, grandson of Mary Weiler

Karen Woerner Kim, friend of Janet Neville

Curtis Althouse, son of Anna Althouse

Jastin Mattu, husband of Cindy Mattu

Dalton Wieder, cousin of Janet Neville

Herman Sholmartin, brother of Oliver Sholmartin

Faith Moyer, cousin of Cara Miller

Jennifer Hean, niece of Brenda Meckley

Yuki & Michi, friends of Linda Meckley

Charlotte Weitzel and parents Matt & Katie

newborn great-granddaughter of

Brenda & Barry Reed

Jennifer Hean, niece of Brenda Meckley

Nevin & Pat McQuate, parents of Cory McQuate

Margie Strine, friend of Bruce & Karen Sweigart

Linda Clark, Janet Neville's sister

Preston Decker, grandson of Leanna Price

Stephanie Krzak

Dawn Smith, friend of Dave & Marcy Donmoyer

Brett Meckley, friend of Janet Neville

Ronita Buskirk, niece of Linda Meckley

Caroline & Robert Newman,

sister & brother-in-law of Sally Sholmartin

Ben & Sarah Day, Ernie Dunkelberger in-laws

Barbara Martzall, daughter-in-law of

Harlan & Dot Martzall

**Our Members and Friends in the Military**

**Members**

Cpt. Seth Grubb

**Friends**

Jerry Beck III

Brett Rettew

Aaron Derr

Ashley Gruebel

Michael Leshner, Jr.

Tyler Moyer

Capt. Andrew Reed

Ronald Sweigart



# AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pastor Brad on Vacation	2 Pastor Brad on Vacation
3 Pastor Brad on Vacation  10:15am Worship w/Rev. George Martz  Mission Moment: Victoria Valez, UCC Homes	4 Pastor Brad on Vacation  7:00pm Property Committee Meeting	5 Pastor Brad on Vacation  NO Bible Meditation	6 Pastor Brad on Vacation  NO Bible Meditation  6:30pm CCC Back to School Night	7 Pastor Brad on Vacation  6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 Pastor Brad on Vacation	9 11:00am-1:00pm Cheesesteak Sale
10 10:15am Worship & Communion	11 6:00pm CCC Staff Meeting & Dinner	12 8:45am Staff Meeting  7:45pm Bible Meditation	13 8:00am Bible Meditation  6:30pm Christian Ed Meeting (Zoom)	14 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal  6:30pm Screen Time Parent Event	15	16
17 10:15am Worship  Church Picnic (after worship)	18 6:30pm Consistory Meeting	19 6:30pm Strategic Planning Team Meeting  7:45pm Bible Meditation	20 8:00am Bible Meditation	21 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10:00am Denver Days Worship in the Park (NO Zoom or Worship in the Sanctuary)	25 6:15pm EASS  7:00pm Property Committee Meeting	26 8:45am Staff Meeting  7:45pm Bible Meditation	27 8:00am Bible Meditation  6:30pm CCC Elm Room Back to School Night	28 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 10:15am Worship						

# September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Labor Day	2 7:45pm Bible Meditation	3 8:00am Bible Meditation	4	5	6
7 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship 6:00pm Children's Fun Event	8 6:00pm CCC Staff Meeting & Dinner	9 8:45am Staff Meeting 7:45pm Bible Meditation	10 8:00am Bible Meditation 12:15pm Cocalico Ministerium Mtg 6:30pm Women's Group	11 5:45pm Mealtime Routines Parent Event 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13 11:00am-1:00pm Cheesesteak Sale
14 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship Mission Moment: Kim Warner, City Gate	15 6:30pm Consistory Meeting	16 7:45pm Bible Meditation	17 8:00am Bible Meditation	18 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship	22 6:15pm EASS 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting	23 8:45am Staff Meeting 7:45pm Bible Meditation	24 8:00am Bible Meditation 6:30pm Women's Group	25 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 9:00am Adult SS 10:15am Worship	29	30 7:45pm Bible Meditation				

# 2025 Giving Summary: As of June 30, 2025

	Total Received	Budget
Weekly Offering (incl Cap Campaign, Bequest & Memorials)	\$ 85,839	\$ 216,000
Fundraisers (incl Men's Brotherhood)	\$ 14,674	\$ 45,000
	<u>\$ 100,513</u>	<u>\$ 261,000</u>
<b>Missions for 2025</b>		
January - Peter's Porch	\$ 1,025	\$ 1,000
February - Good Samaritan Services	\$ 660	\$ 1,000
March - Ephrata Area Social Services	\$ 860	\$ 1,000
April - Habitat for Humanity	\$ 625	\$ 1,000
May - Lighthouse Vocational Services	\$ 740	\$ 1,000
June - UCC Connections (UCC OCWM, Penn Central Conf, Lanc Assoc.)	\$ 1,223	\$ 1,000
July - Cocalico Ministerium	\$ 100	\$ 1,000
August - UCC Homes (incl Ephrata Manor)	\$ -	\$ 1,000
September - City Gate	\$ -	\$ 1,000
October - Real Life Community Services (incl Power Packs)	\$ -	\$ 1,000
November - Builders of Hope	\$ -	\$ 1,000
December - UCC Youth Homes (incl Bethany Children's & Hoffman Youth)	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Other Missions:		
Heifer Project	\$ 20	\$ -
Meals on Wheels	\$ 686	\$ -
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,674	\$ -
	<u>\$ 7,613</u>	<u>\$ 12,000</u>

# Foundation Financial Report: May 1 - June 30, 2025

Checking Account Activity

Beginning Cash Balance - May 1, 2025	\$ 4,167.57
Cash Receipts:	<u>0.00</u>
Total Cash Available	4,167.57
Cash Disbursements:	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance - June 30, 2025	<u><u>\$ 4,167.57</u></u>

Investment Account Balance

Beginning Balance - May 1, 2025	\$ 1,012,120.20
Deposits / Additions:	
Investment Income	5,655.00
Increase in Value of Investments	<u>49,199.01</u>
	54,854.01
Withdrawals / Deductions:	
Investment Fees	0.00
Transfer for Church Operations / Legacy Campaign	25,000.00
Transfers for Mortgage Payments	13,600.00
Decrease in Value of Investments	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>38,600.00</u>
Ending Balance - June 30, 2025	<u><u>\$ 1,028,374.21</u></u>

Allocation of Account Balance:	Beginning	Ending
Foundation	<u>\$ 782,120.20</u>	<u>\$ 847,940.04</u>
Legacy Campaign	<u>230,000.00</u>	<u>180,434.17</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,012,120.20</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,028,374.21</u></u>