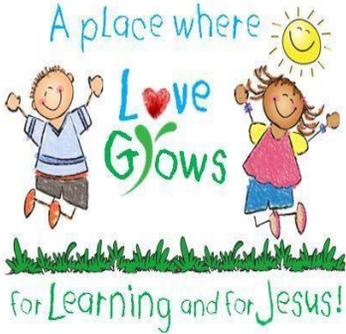


# February 2016

Newsletter from St. John's UMC & Nursery School

## St. John's Nursery School

### Celebrating 50 Years 1966-2016



What an accomplishment for our church! Fifty years of guiding children in the Bayshore area as they learn and grow. Our school stands strong with 133 students and 20 staff members. Our families continue to love our program, our staff, and our teaching of Christian values.

Education is probably the most important gift that parents can give their children. We are blessed to offer parents not only a quality education, but one that shares Christian values and Bible teachings. Our students learn about God. The lessons they learn at school help strengthen their belief and faith in God as they grow. They are taught to be kind, loving, patient, good and faithful following in the teaching of the Fruit of the Spirit. They learn it's ok to pray and ok to seek help and guidance from others. Our students know they are special children of God!

Please join us in celebrating 50 years of quality, Christian education!

God Bless, Elizabeth Valentin and Melanie Pflieger



### Ash Wednesday Service - February 10, 2016

Ashes will be given at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY "The Journey to Pleasantville"

A Study of the Book of Ruth

Classes meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.  
(Each session will run approximately 1 hour)  
5 Sessions: February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10

The Stewardship Committee Reminds  
You to Honor your 2016 Giving Commitment



- Use weekly envelopes & promptly make up for any missed" Sundays,
- Honor monthly commitments through the offering plate or by sending a check when you pay your monthly bills, or
- Use your bank's Bill Pay service to automatically send your commitment to the church

Please also remember your Initial Offering – this offsets the cost of the envelopes!

Sunday Services  
10:00 a.m.  
Nursery Care available  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship 11:00 a.m.



### All Are Welcome

Regardless of denomination or affiliation, all are welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church. Feel free to attend services, bible study classes, and participate in many of its activities and ministries. For more information on these programs please contact our Church Office at 732-264-1236.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the UMM

Wear your NFL GEAR!



### FISH BAKE

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> & February 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. \$8.00 per person

Dinner: Baked Fish/Chicken, fruit cup,  
baked potato, cole slaw, dessert &  
beverage.

Take Out available and Free Delivery to  
Bethany Towers & Bethany Manor!



### St. John's Coffee House

Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

### Manna House Fundraiser

LIVE Music, Beverages, Snacks & Good  
fellowship. Will Offering. All are welcome!

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



**FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**6:00-7:30 P.M.**

Assorted Pancakes,  
Pork Roll, Sausage,  
Beverages.

Free Will Offering

Lenten Lessons & Games  
for Children & Adults!

# THANK YOU from the Outreach Committee

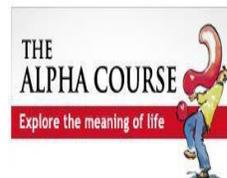
Before you know, it will be Valentine's Day. The Outreach committee would like to thank everyone for such a great response to the Sharing Tree and for everyone's help for our very first Thanksgiving dinner. We have so much to be thankful for, and you are one of them! We could not do our ministries without all of your help. This was the most beautiful Christmas season, we had wonderful music, a fantastic play that correlated each week with the sermon, a beautifully decorated church, children singing, a donkey that came to church! Lots of food and cookies too! Most of all the love of Jesus was all throughout the church! St. John's certainly was the Christmas Church!



## Sight and Sound Trip Being Planned!

Many people enjoyed our visit to Sight and Sound this past year and have expressed an interest to go back. You'll be happy to know that plans are in the works to go see this year's production of SAMSON. The date I'm looking at is Saturday, October 22th at 2:45 p.m. All earlier months are already SOLD OUT for Saturday. This date is the first available. I am hoping to charter a bus again and stop at Kettle Village before the show and dinner after the show. I presently know that the price of the Sight and Sound tickets are \$71. More details for the price of the bus will follow as the date gets closer and I know how many people will be attending. If you are interested in going on this trip please let me know as soon as you can; since availability is running out. You can call me, Lisa DiNitto at 908 668 0389 (h), 908 380 8518 (c) or by email: [burntmilk@comcast.net](mailto:burntmilk@comcast.net).

## *Alpha Spring Session to Begin!*



Alpha's Spring session will be starting February 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm in Wesley Room with our Celebration Dinner. Anyone is invited but please either call the church office, 732-264-1236 or Ginny DeFalco 848-218-0252 to reserve a spot for dinner & the number of guests you will be bringing. We will start our 3 programs - Alpha, Life Worth Living & Challenging Lifestyle the following Wednesday 2/24/16 at 7:00 p.m. which will be held in the Wesley Room for the next 10 weeks. If you haven't done all the Alpha courses or if you know of anyone who really doesn't know Jesus, please invite them! We hope to see you there to Celebrate!



February 2 Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m. February 4 Men's Bible  
 Study, 6:30 p.m. February 5 Fish Bake, 6 p.m.  
 February 6 Nursery School Registration, 8-10 a.m. February 7 Super Bowl  
 Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m.  
 February 8 Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
 Church Council, 7 p.m. February 9 Prayer Shawl  
 Ministry, 7 p.m.  
 Shrove Dinner, 6 p.m.  
 February 10 Ash Wednesday Services 8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m. February 13 UMW  
 Meeting. 9 a.m.  
 February 14 Valentine's Day  
 February 15 Presidents Day – Church Office &  
 Nursery School Closed Trustees, 7 p.m.  
 February 17 Alpha Celebration Dinner, 7 p.m.  
 February 19 Coffee House, 7 p.m.  
 Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. February 20 Men's  
 Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.  
 February 24 Alpha Begins, 7 p.m. 10 week session  
 February 26 Fish Bake, 6 p.m.  
 February 28 Wesleyan Café, 11 a.m.

**Deadline: All Echo articles for March must be submitted by Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>!**

My mother came across this poem written by my Grandfather, (her Father), just the other day. I didn't know my Grandfather shared a passion for writing poetry like I do. I feel this poem has an important message to get across, so I want to share it with you. I hope this poem touches your heart as it did mine.

Lisa DiNitto

01-10-1970

On this day mend a quarrel, search out a forgotten friend.  
Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a letter to someone who misses you.  
Encourage a youth who has lost faith.  
Keep a promise, forget an old grudge.  
Amend your demands on others and vow to reduce them.  
Fight for a principle, express your gratitude. Overcome an old fear.  
Take two minutes to appreciate the beauty  
of nature.  
Tell someone you love them.  
Tell them again, and again and again.

Guilio

### **The Usher**

An elderly woman walked into the local country church.  
The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up  
the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked  
politely.  
The front row, please," she answered.  
"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor  
is really boring." "Do you happen to know who I am?"  
the woman inquired. "No," he said.  
"I'm the pastor's mother," she  
replied indignantly. "Do you  
know who I am?" he asked.  
"No," she said.  
"Good," he answered.

# Special Christmas Ministry

You may support the Christmas Ministry this season by giving a gift “In Honor of” or “In Loving Memory of” a loved one. The Living Creche, poinsettias, wreaths, evergreens and decorations throughout the sanctuary, narthex, and education wing are beautiful sights and sounds of the season.

Contributions are made to the general fund from which all expenses of the Christmas ministry are paid. Names of donors and those memorialized by the gift will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.

In order for your name to appear on this bulletin, the form below must be completed and returned to the Church Office no later than December 14<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to take a poinsettia plant, please do so after Christmas.

Please Print Clearly

My Gift is in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is to Beautify the Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_



## Countless Blessings

Lord, on this special day of thankfulness,  
we thank You not only for the delicious food,  
lovingly prepared and presented,  
but also for special gifts  
You've given to this family –  
Loved ones we cherish dearly,  
a comfortable place to live,  
the beauty that surrounds us,  
materials pleasures,  
health, spiritual wealth,  
and so much more.

How can we show our gratitude for  
the countless blessings You've provided?  
We thank you for giving us clear direction,  
through Your Holy Word  
on how to show our appreciation,  
by obeying Your commands  
and by loving and serving our neighbors.  
Thank You, Lord.

*Happy Thanksgiving*