

St. John's Good News

A Family of Friends in Christ. Saved by Grace to Serve Others in Love.

St. John's Church on Morgan Hill (610) 258-6018
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www.StJohnsMorganHill.org Facebook – St. Johns Church on Morgan Hill
Rev., Dr. Blake Heffner Pastor *Rev. Helen Pearson, Asst. Pastor Emeritus*
Debbie Patterson, Secretary-Treasurer *Margaret Parisi, Caretaker*
Doris Bonstein, Financial Secretary *Nancy Moninghoff, Organist & Dir. Of Music*
Ministry Team – *Tim Gordon, Rev., Dr. Scott Janney, Linda Kreitz, Dara Lavoie*

October 2020

Dear Friends and Family at St. John's,

I can't believe how fast the past few weeks have flown! I can't believe this is my last official "Pastor Letter" either! Don't get me started! So far I've been looking with eagerness at retiring on All Saints' Sunday (November 1). But, now I can feel some of the sadness creeping into my gladness. I'm beginning to feel how much I will miss being your Pastor.

This past Sunday, it felt so good to be in the pulpit, seeing so many of you and celebrating Holy Communion. It was a different experience with the wafer and cup coming together in a package. *A friend of mine couldn't even get it open until he got home!* Still we were gathered together, symbolically around the Table, with Jesus as our Host. I felt His presence. Tim said he did too. Tristan Minnich said he saw a bright shaft of sunlight come through the windows when we prayed together! Whether you were in the sanctuary or at home, I hope you felt the Spirit's presence as well!

I can assure you there's nothing which can replace such experiences for me – no amount of travel or golf, no amount of working on that "Honey do!" list or reading. We've been "family" for these thirty-six years. This has not been merely a job, as much as an awesome honor and privilege to share in your lives – both the hard times and the festive ones. And I've enjoyed virtually every minute! There is something so precious about the intimacy of our friendship that cannot be found anywhere else.

So, here is my prayer and my wish. I'm hoping we can find creative ways to continue seeing each other – having a cup of coffee or breakfast; sitting on your porch or our deck with a glass of iced tea (social distancing, of course!); maybe even going out to dinner or enjoying a round of golf.

However, in the immediate future there needs to be a period when the Interim Pastor has both the time and space to guide our wonderful family through this very important transition. This is absolutely crucial for the thriving of the church. It won't last forever, but it must run its course. After that, perhaps the Lord will re-open the door for us to be together again.

Through it all we know that the Lord Jesus who brought us together and blessed us in so many ways will be with us always! We can be assured He's got someone in mind already to lead us forward. And, by His grace, we have a marvelous, dedicated Ministry Team which will provide continuity between this present and that bright future! I'm excited to see what the Lord has in store for us all. I hope you are too!

Grace and peace!

Pastor Blake



The church is open for Sunday Worship – 9:00 AM

ALL Sunday morning worship services are also online.
Please go to our website www.StJohnsMorganHill.org

If you are on Facebook, Follow us at:
St. John's Church on Morgan Hill
We go LIVE at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

PAST SERVICE RECORDINGS – click on “Worship Services Library” on our website.

If you know someone who would like a copy of the morning service – on a DVD, please call the church office. Wayne and Judy Paulus are creating DVD's of the services and will deliver them to your home.

Sundays in the Rest of October

- 11 Worship at 9:00 AM
 10:30 AM Confirmands meet for the last time;
 11:00 AM Interview with elders
 11:30 AM Parents join for rehearsal

- 18 The Rite of Confirmation at 9:00 AM

- 25 The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday - November 1st **All SAINTS DAY**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – **MEDIA TEAM** to help with the recording of the worship service. We need someone each Sunday morning to use the newly purchased video recorder. We also need help with using the computer to project the hymn lyrics onto the front wall for the worship service. Please call Pastor Blake or Scott Janney if you can help. (Training will be provided.)

We are also looking for some **USHERS** who can help with the seating of the congregation. Please see Murray Ott if you can help.

St. JOHN'S PRAYER TEAM – The Prayer Team is accepting your prayer requests through phone calls to any of the Ministry Team. You may also contact Erna Bonstein. If you would like to be part of St. John's Prayer Warriors, please give your email address or phone number to Erna.



The church is offering Holy Communion by appointment for those who do not feel comfortable coming to Worship. Please call Pastor Blake, Tim Gordon, Linda Kreitz or the church office to set up a time and place to meet. We are available to come to your home if you so desire.

OUR WATCHWORD FOR THE YEAR

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2



Meals for those who come home from the hospital.

There is a need for volunteers to cook or bake to assist with meals. Frozen meals work great also! Bake a cake or cookies. A meal from a restaurant also works! Who doesn't love some fried chicken from a favorite restaurant!

Pastor Dara is providing food for others through a community ministry called LOVE THY NEIGHBOR. If you would like to help her in anyway please contact her. She is in need of canned goods, frozen items, fresh vegetables and grocery store gift cards.

Providing meals to SAFE HARBOR shelter in Easton.

Pastor Barb Duncan could really use some help with this ministry.
(Maybe bake a cake?)

Call Linda Kreitz if you can help in some way.
(610) 392-0005

Outreach Ministry Good News!

Northampton County Children, Youth & Families is currently organizing this year's Christmas Gift Giving Project and will be providing a list towards the end of October of children and their families that are in need of a little extra help at Christmas time. As with many things in 2020, we will need to be a bit more creative with our coordination of this wonderful outreach program.



You can spread joy in many ways, including, the traditional selection of a child or family member's wish list for those that enjoy shopping and providing a gift bag for delivery to the county. You can also purchase a gift card from local or national retailers such as Amazon, Walmart, Target, Boscov's or Kohl's that can be returned to the county so that a caseworker can shop for a child or family member. Cash donations will also be accepted and used to purchase gift cards for the program. We can even arrange to pick up your donation if you are unable to deliver it to the church. More details to follow.

Jennifer Ireland has volunteered to coordinate St. John's efforts to participate in this year's project. If you are interested in contributing in this worthy local cause, please contact Jen by phone or text at (610) 731-8053 or by email at pamperedjen2002@yahoo.com.



Are you shopping from home due to the virus pandemic?

Here's a way to help our church as you shop online.

St. John's Church on Morgan Hill is listed as a charity with the Amazon Smile program. This means we will receive a donation of 0.5% for purchases made by anyone who picks us as their charity! Follow these steps:

1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com when you shop.
2. **If you already have an Amazon account**, you will keep it, but you will need to choose us as your charity. Type our name in the charity search box and click 'Select'.
3. **If you do not have an Amazon account**, you will be asked to create one. Then type our name in the charity search box and click 'Select'.
4. You will shop as you always do, so shop till you drop! We will automatically receive our donations from Amazon on a quarterly basis.

Please tell all your friends and family. Thank you for helping us.



THANK YOU..... Pastor Dara!!

On September 27th Pastor Dara stepped down from the Youth Group Pastor position at St. Johns.

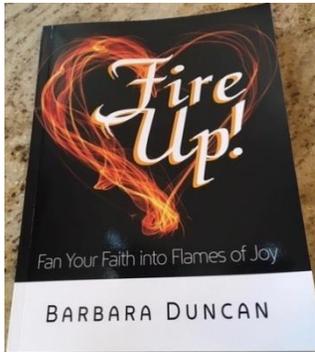
Jerry Zoccola thanked her for her years of service to the youth at St. Johns Church, presenting her with some gifts from the church. Dara was the Youth Pastor for 10 years and a Sunday School teacher for 22 years.

Pastor Dara will continue to be part of the Ministry Team serving the Lord in various ways including providing meals for the less fortunate at Trinity Church. She is looking for others at St. John's to help her with this Outreach Ministry. Some people help cook and bake. Others are needed to help serve. Please pray about how the Lord may use you to serve others in love.

Feel free to reach out in your own way to say thank you to her!!



Dave Walter and his family want to thank everyone for the surprise birthday card shower and drive by party for his 90th birthday!!!



Exciting news! My new book, “Fire Up! Fan Your Faith into Flames of Joy,” is now available for purchase! I would love to sign a special copy for you for \$10. This book includes not only my writing but that of Pastor Blake Heffner, Max Lucado, Henry Nowen with Kathy Bock designing the cover!

The following describes the theme of the book, designed for you to “Fire Up!,” your faith! Please contact me to reserve your copy. (Think Christmas gifts! One of our church members bought one of my devotional books for every woman in his life for Christmas! They loved them.)

On what do we base our faith? On God’s Promises to us! We know He will always keep those promises, no matter what. With all the evil and uncertainty seeming to flourish around us, I take great comfort in these promises that God has made to His people. It is my desire and sincere hope that the writings in this book will Bless You with God’s abundant love for us and His promise to never leave us. I pray that some of the keys to my faith as expressed here will strengthen your faith and Love for the Lord.

Pastor Barbara

Preciouspearls888@gmail.com

www.AllGloryAndHonor.com

(610) 438-4874

(online BLOG)

PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW FOR RE-OPENING THE CHURCH AFTER SHUTDOWN FROM COVID-19

1. The church has been thoroughly cleaned according to CDC guidelines prior to opening. All surfaces that have been touched will be cleaned each week as well.
2. To promote safety and reduce the amount of cleaning the Social Hall will be closed unless using the restroom facilities.
3. Everyone will enter the church through the front doors. All other doors are locked. There will be an usher at the bottom of the walkway to keep everyone socially distanced. There will also be an ushers at the front door directing you into the Sanctuary which will be filled from front to back in alternating pews. Other pews will be marked "DO NOT USE". The balcony will be closed. EXITING THE CHURCH - Ushers will also assist with directing people out the church – exiting from the back to the front. Exiting will be done row by row.
4. Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times when inside the church.
5. If for any reason you are coughing and sneezing or running a fever, PLEASE STAY HOME!
6. All hymnals have been removed from the pews. Bulletins will be placed on alternating pews. Please take them with you when you leave.
7. Music will be provided through Audio and Visual recordings.
8. There will be an Offering Plate in the vestibule for you to use entering or leaving the church.
9. Hand sanitizers have been placed around the church for your use. However, they are difficult to find, please feel free to bring your own.
10. The restrooms will be cleaned and available, however, we ask that you use them only if necessary.
11. A reminder to avoid touching your face while in church and to wash your hands when you get home.

This is new for all of us, and we do appreciate your patience as we iron out any wrinkles in these first few weeks. Consistory will be meeting twice a month to make any changes needed to keep all of us safe.

Respectfully,
Jerry Zoccola