

# PATHWAY TO PURPOSE NEWSLETTER

P2P Keeping YOU informed.

March 2023 – Issue 003.2023

Website: [www.stjohnsuccmd.com](http://www.stjohnsuccmd.com)



## What's it all about...committees, committees, committees!

Article: Rev. Jennifer K. Knighton

Last month we reported the creation of three subcommittees under the P2P Implementation Committee: Communications, Community Outreach, and Missions. These are now up and running. We also asked for some new volunteers and several people answered the call and our committees are growing. We will always have room for more and welcome new folks!

**P2P Missions Subcommittee:** Responsible to plan, coordinate, and implement mission work, both established programs and new ones.

Chair: George Knoerlein

Members: Krista Bayne, Connie Heasley, Tina Hamilton, Charlene Mowery

The mission of the church is to be God's servants in the service of others as we proclaim the gospel to all the world. This is the ultimate goal. In the Subcommittee on Mission, we do this in many ways. We can easily list all the ways we serve others, but without people engaging in these ministries they mean nothing. They take life and meaning as we breathe it into the activities of each mission project.

Here are the current mission projects that people are working with:

CEA (Catonsville Emergency Assistance)

Ugly Quilts Project

Catonsville Children's Home

Cornerstone Community Housing: Earl's Place and Prospect Place

Baltimore Homeless - feeding a simple meal and supplies to those who are on the street.

OGHS – One Great Hour of Sharing – Provides immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

NIN – Neighbors in Need – This mission supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and is a Denominational Offering.

OCWM- Our Churches Wider Mission – Provides funding from UCC congregations for Conference and national ministries of the UCC.

How do we give life to these mission projects? By participating with time and energy, collecting, sharing, packing, buying, contributing in whatever ways we can.

**“So, let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we do not give up...” Galatians 6:9**

God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season. We can make a difference. We do make a difference.

**P2P Community Outreach Subcommittee:** Responsible to research community needs, contact community organizations, and foster community relationships.

Chair: Rev. Jennifer Knighton

Members: Will Caldwell, Jan Austell, Jay Fuller, Nancy Gardner, Mark Hayes, Casey McNeeley

Community Outreach - **First committee meeting will be March 7<sup>th</sup>** - Zoom 6:30PM

As we get to know our community, we are able to work together and share our love for God and loving our neighbor. We are surrounded by vibrant communities (Catonsville, Arbutus, and others) where we may have the opportunity to make a difference.

Some ways we share our campus and reach out to the community:

- New Covenant UCC - congregation sharing worship space.
- Living Waters Catholic Community – using our sanctuary
- Girls Scouts- meeting in the fellowship hall.
- The Community Garden – working to sharing gardening space and skills with the community.
- Bee Keeper
- Catonsville Y – Summer camp
- AA – Alcoholics Anonymous – meets weekly in the fellowship hall.
- Church School for Children
- Vacation Bible School
- Silly Sprouts - Our doors are open for an (independent) Child Care program which cares for children in the Catonsville and surrounding communities.

The list above are a few ways we open our building to the community and become involved. At our first meeting we will explore the possibilities that are before us.

**P2P Communications Subcommittee:** Responsible for a monthly P2P Newsletter and for coordinating monthly speakers during worship to present information on P2P topics.

- Chair: Paul Rowley
- Member: Laura Prinn

Committees are all about involvement. We hope to provide meaningful ministry in a “doable” way that will help us grow in faith and provide pathways to love and care for others.



## St. John’s Grace Pathway to Purpose: VISION, PURPOSE, AND MISSION

What is our goal? **A legacy of Christ’s love and justice.**  
*This is our vision.*

Why? **We are called by God’s love.**  
*This is our purpose.*

How do we reach our goal? **Seek God. Listen. Love. Do.**  
*This is our mission. Details of our mission are as follows:*

<b><u>Seek God.</u></b>	<b><u>Listen.</u></b>	<b><u>Love.</u></b>	<b><u>Do.</u></b>
God is our rock.	God is still speaking.	God is love.	God asks us to put our faith into action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ask for God’s guidance.</li> <li>•Pray</li> <li>•Worship</li> <li>•Study.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Be open to hearing what God has to say.</li> <li>•Work to discern what God is telling us.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Love God in return</li> <li>•Love ourselves</li> <li>•Love all people – in our congregation, in our community and in our world.</li> <li>•Love God’s creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Welcome all</li> <li>•Seek justice for all</li> <li>•Determine community needs</li> <li>•Be good stewards of the earth’s resources for present and future generations</li> <li>•Serve others</li> <li>•Teach</li> <li>•Spread God’s love</li> </ul>