



Pastor John Folk

It continues to be one of the greatest blessings of my life to serve as pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

While I love working with all people, my heart, and so much of my call to ministry has been firmly planted in the areas of youth & young adult ministry for many years. I am committed to the belief that our youth and young adults are not just the future of our church – they are a vital part of the ministry of the church today.

I am a graduate of Fleetwood High School. I have studied at Penn State University and

Kutztown University with a focus on Secondary Education. I graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2013 with a Master of Divinity degree and a certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

I live in a converted one-room schoolhouse in Elverson along with my husband, Frank, and our four dogs: Noah, Cooper (aka Mr. Beeps), Toby and Joey.

My hobbies include travelling, reading, hiking, fishing, gardening, and amateur photography. I self-identify as a bit of a nerd, loving all things tech and get really excited about the ways that technology can connect us and the potential to enhance worship and our learning environments. With that said, I should most definitely add that computers are no replacement for a real conversation over a nice cup of java and still keep on hand my “laptop that never crashes” (also known as a typewriter).

My faith journey began with my baptism at Becker’s Lutheran in Molltown. My family moved to St. Paul’s UCC when I was still a young child. My experiences with the youth ministry at St. Paul’s helped to light the sparks that would eventually grow into the fire that is my call to ministry. St. Paul’s has been my home, my community of faith, and the place where the foundation of what I believe and what that means for who I am was formed. I sincerely thank God that St. Paul’s has been a part of my journey. I feel very blessed to be part of such a vibrant, energetic, and loving community of God’s people and to be serving a congregation that holds such a dear place in my heart.

In addition to my work at St. Paul's, I'm on the board of directors for the United Church of Christ, have helped to coordinate youth@synod, am a part of the General Synod Implementation Team, help to coordinate National, Regional, and Conference Youth Events, am a part of the PSEC Annual Meeting Team, help to coordinate Theology with a Twist in Kutztown, and assist with the Berks CROP Walk.