

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

575 Grape Street ☩ Whitehall PA 18052

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**We Worship, We Love, We Serve –  
No Matter What!**

**July 3, 2022  
9:30 am**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

# The Order of Worship

## ~ We Worship ~

\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Video to Prepare Our Hearts for Worship Pg. 4, Poem Text  
“Caged Bird” by Poet, Maya Angelou

Chimes

Prelude “Break Thou the Bread of Life”  
William F. Sherwin  
Arr. Stan Pethel

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Steven Davis

\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*Call to Worship *From UCC Worship Ways*

One: Make a joyful sound to the Holy One. Let the earth  
rejoice.

**All: How awesome are your works, our Marvelous God!**

One: Creation groans under the pressure of war,  
environmental abuse, and communal disconnection.

**All: We cry out to you, Present God, and you hear and  
respond.**

One: You turn our mourning into movement and stir our  
souls to action and to rest.

**All: Everlasting God, we will give thanks and praise you  
for you clothe us in joy and peace.**

\*Opening Hymn “America, the Beautiful” pg. 2

*Public Domain*

# America, the Beautiful

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
 2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress  
 3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
 4 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
 a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!  
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!  
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!  
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine!  
 and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!

## Prayer of Confession

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**One:** Spirit of the Living God, temptation surrounds us. Self-preservation lures us to indifference. Fear of confrontation coaxes us to keep silent about things that matter. The desire to be right entices us to ignore the cries of our neighbors. Too often we ignore the call to go and to be in favor of staying stuck in our attitudes and behaviors. Too often, we are the ones who refuse to welcome you into our intimate space, who resist the work of transformation, and who remain unresponsive to the burdens of our siblings in creation.

**All: Spirit of Gentleness, redirect us back to the path of life, the way of justice, and the hope of peace. Amen.**

*(Time for Silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**One:** Our Companion and Advocate takes this journey with us. Our invitation to make the kingdom of God our dwelling place continually renews.

**All: The Righteous One opens the door and eases our entry into new life, new mercy, and new grace. Amen.**

## Children's Message

### \*Scripture Reading

Luke 10:1-11

Linda Powell

\*Please stand in body or in spirit for the reading of the Gospel.

**One:** The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Sermon

Rev. Davis

Faith & Core Values: We Are a People of Liberation  
"Choose Your Hard"

*Caged Bird*  
A poem by Maya Angelou

A free bird leaps  
on the back of the wind  
and floats downstream  
till the current ends  
and dips his wing  
in the orange sun rays  
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
his wings are clipped and  
his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of  
another breeze  
and the trade winds soft  
through the sighing trees  
and the fat worms waiting  
on a dawn bright lawn  
and he names the sky his  
own.

But a caged bird stands on the  
grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a  
nightmare scream  
his wings are clipped and his  
feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

Musical Offering

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

William Steffe

Arr. Jay Althouse

Kirby Hower, vocal solo

## ~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer from “*How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*” #594

Rev. Davis

*On her first trip west in summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies.” One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.*

God of many names, in faith we name these persons and needs before you, trusting you to bring your peace, healing and hope to people and circumstances. Hear our prayers for...

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain...  
America! America! God grant that we may be a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Christ, who loves and liberates us all and who taught us to pray, saying...

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen**

## Prayer Response

From the hymn “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

**O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you;  
I give you back the life I owe, that in your ocean depths its  
flow may swell with ardor true.**

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## Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church  
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2022.*

**We Are an Inclusive Community!**

**In the United Church of Christ, we observe an  
“open communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.**

**In the UCC, ALL means ALL!**

## A Communion Liturgy of Liberation

**O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have  
received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of  
happiness...**

## Words of Institution and Consecration

## The Invitation to Receive & Sharing the Meal

*As the minister directs, open and receive the gifts of communion and then  
close the cup with the lid. Receptacles are available at the exit doorways to  
dispose of containers as you leave the sanctuary. Please do your part to help  
keep our worship space clean.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**One: The liberated life responds to the call for all persons to  
know and experience true freedom. The liberated life  
recognizes that none are truly free until all are free.**

**All: Those liberated in Christ are those who seek to challenge all oppression, and pave the way for the moral arc of the universe to bend further toward justice! Embodying Jesus' hope, inclusion and compassion, we live out our liberation until all are fully set free! Amen**

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity  
and faithfulness in  
supporting the ministry of St.  
John's UCC!

\*Doxology                      “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise Him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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\*Prayer of Dedication

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**Creator, bless these gifts that we bring to this community  
and the world. May our time be used precious, our  
treasure shared faithfully, and our talents demonstrated  
gloriously in your name. Amen.**



## ~ We Serve ~

\*Hymn #396

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

*Public Domain*

\*The Benediction

Postlude

“How Firm A Foundation”

Joseph Funk

Arr. Cindy Berry

### My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,  
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,  
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees  
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the  
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and  
sweet free-dom's song: let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that  
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free-dom's

pil - grims' pride, from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!  
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.  
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.  
ho - ly light; pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King!

## **In Our Prayers**

Please remember all our sick, shut-ins and those in our area hospitals in your prayers: Jackie Maxon (Pastor Steve's mom), Sharon Antrim, Nancy Cusati, Andi Dallago, Shirley Downing, Tracey Glass, Geraldine Keim, Roger Knauss, Emma Kuczak-Repp, Alan Miller, Karen Moyer, Jack Ohl, Joey Raszler and Marietta Seyfried.

Also remember those Serving in our Armed Forces:  
E4 Colin Haydt                      Chief Petty Officer Jacob Smith

## **Worship & Music Committee - Opportunities to Serve**

Sponsor the wheat basket at the altar to support the food bank.

Sponsor altar flowers on a Sunday.

Sign up to be an usher/greeter.

## **Altar Flowers**

One vase in memory of mother and grandmother Arlene Snyder, by Paul, Carol, Michael and Josef Raszler.

## **Please Share Your Talent**

Do you like to sing, play an instrument or have other talents to share for our summer worship services? The Sundays are July through August. You can sign up for one or more Sundays. Please see Emilie Moyer or Pastor Steve.

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **July 3**

Worship Tech – Michelle Gutekunst

Acolyte – Austyn Venanzi

Ushers – Amy Fiedler, Janet Ebert, Margaret Young and Tom Moyer

### **July 10**

Ushers – Colleen Kulhamer, Cindy Reck and Margaret Young

## **SONGS WE LIKE TO SING!**

From now through July 17, please share the title of a hymn you like to sing for our "Music Sunday" on July 31! There's a sheet for your favorites to be noted on the back table in the Parlor. Share your favorites!

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

For the month of July, we are collecting **ground drip coffee, pancake syrup, instant potatoes and dry cereal**. Any other nonperishable food items are always welcome as well as monetary donations. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

## Church Calendar for the Week of July 3 - July 10, 2022

Sun, 7/3	9:30 am	Worship Service, Communion
Mon, 7/4		Church Office Closed
Tues, 7/5	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance - last zoom
Wed, 7/6	8:00 am	Bus trip to Sight and Sound
	9:00 am	Reminder... No Verso Chat this week
	6:30 pm	STARS
Thurs, 7/7	6:30 pm	Zumba
Sat, 7/9	9:30 am	Zumba
	6:30 pm	IronPigs Party Porch
Sun, 7/10	9:30 am	Worship Service
		August newsletter articles due

### **OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
sjfsrpastor@gmail.com	
Rev. David Quinn	Visitation Pastor
Pedalinpastor@gmail.com	
Sue Weldner	Treasurer
sbweldner@gmail.com	
Alison Berger Boor & Susan Kuder	Office Administrators
sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com	
Thomas and Emilie Moyer	Financial Secretary
tommoyer54@gmail.com	
Michelle Gutekunst	
starsofstjohns@gmail.com	Worship Tech &
custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com	Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner	Custodian
rczekner11@aol.com	
Christina Bach	Custodian
iron1on1@verizon.net	

### **OUR FAITH HOME GATHERINGS**

Sign up to take part in an “Our Faith Home” small group in July as we discuss our plans, programs and possibilities for this Fall, with “St. John’s 22.0!”

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Offerings received in the fourth week of June were \$2,975, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail, and in the Sunday offering plate. This brings our total offerings for June to \$16,188, about \$6,300 short of our monthly target of \$22,500 in offerings. Through May, we are \$14,400 behind in overall income compared to expenses. We can expect to add to our cumulative loss in June.



## IRONPIGS BASEBALL

We have 63 people going to the IronPigs vs Syracuse Mets baseball game on Thursday, August 4, at 7:05 pm. Tickets along with food vouchers and raffle tickets should be available and distributed sometime in mid-July. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com).

## UKRAINE RELIEF FUND - THE NEED CONTINUES

Your contributions so far have helped with Ukrainian relief through your giving to UCC National, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Project HOPE, and World Central Kitchen. As long as this crisis continues, we will receive donations by mail, at worship, or by online and text giving. We have just sent another \$390 to UCC National in June. For the month of July, any funds received will go to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Be sure to note that your contribution is for "Ukraine Relief Fund." Special offering envelopes along with yellow and blue lapel pins showing your support can be found on the table in the lounge area by the sanctuary.

## BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR WHITEHALL-COPLAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

We are collecting school supplies for the WCSD. A collection box can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary along with a complete shopping list of items. There will also be a **School Supplies Donation Drive-by on Saturday, July 23, from 10:00 am to Noon at the pavilion.** Items needed are: backpacks, notebook paper, black markers, crayons, yellow highlighters, plastic water bottles, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, colored pencils, 1" 3-ring binders, dividers with tabs, pocket folders, glue sticks and rulers. Also, only Texas Instruments T1-30XS Multiview calculators and earbuds/headphones compatible with Chromebook. **Deadline to receive articles is Sunday, July 24.**

## "FUN" RAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Weis and Giant Gift Cards –Various denominations available for purchase. See either Tom Moyer or Cheryl Weaver after church to purchase. The church receives 5% back on the Weis and Giant Gift cards that we sell.

Save your Redner's grocery receipts – Place your receipts in the designated basket in the parlor area. The church receives 1% back from Redner's receipts.