

St. John's UCC, Fullerton



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



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

**July 17, 2022
9:30am**

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Order of Worship

~ *We Worship* ~

* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Chimes

Prelude

“Seek Ye First”

Karen Lafferty

Johann Pachelbel

Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Call to Worship

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Let us gather in spirit and truth to worship the Holy One!

All: We come as green olive trees, fragrant with life and vibrancy.

One: Let us praise the God who reveals, questions, and listens.

All: We come as green olive trees, ripe with possibilities.

One: Let us give thanks for God’s abiding and faithful love.

All: We come as green olive trees, proclaiming the goodness of God and creation.

*Opening Hymn #387

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

(Tune: The Church’s One Foundation #386)

Tune- Public Domain.

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Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Creator, we seek the transformative power of your grace that chastens, convicts, and challenges us to change.

All: Make us new in the pruning of bitterness and resentment, jealousy and comparison, apathy and indifference. Liberally water us in grace that we would bear fruit. Amen.

(Time for Silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Pruning makes way for flourishing. Transformation and new life wait for us on the other side of the process of growth.

All: Through it all, God is with us. Amen.

Children's Message

*Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:21-23

Luke 10:38-42

Ellen Sagazio

*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.

Music Video

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Gordon Light/Mark Miller

Eastminster United Church

an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

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Sermon

Rev. Davis

Faith & Core Values: We Are a People of Inclusion

“Don't Be Distracted, Be Included”

Musical Offering

“His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

Charles H. Gabriel

Dale Serfass, vocal solo

~ *We Love* ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

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...

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...

God the still-point of the circle, round you all creation turns
Nothing lost but held forever in God's gracious arms

Let our hearts touch far horizons, to encompass great and small
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call

Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed
before, Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door!

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 Joy that seeks me through my pain, to you I cannot close my heart; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and know the promise is not in vain that you will ne’er depart.

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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*
Alpha and Omega, may these gifts meet the needs before us, the community around us, and the call within us. Amen.

~ *We Serve* ~

*Hymn#393

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Public Domain

*The Benediction

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Ein feste Burg

Setting: John Carter

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 and Ron Glass, Geraldine Keim, Roger Knauss, Emma Kuczak-Repp, Alan Miller, Karen Moyer, Jack Ohl, Joey Raszler and Marietta Seyfried.

Remember Dewey Yeatts and family on the death of his father.

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.

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 17

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Acolyte – Maya Williams

Ushers – Linda Apple, Charlie Apple and Marion Demillio

July 24

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Ushers – Charlotte Kerringan, Susan Rarick and Colleen
Kulhamer

SONGS WE LIKE TO SING!

Today is the last day for you to suggest 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!

OUR STAFF

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Church Calendar for the Week of July 17 - July 24, 2022

Sun, 7/17	9:30 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
Mon, 7/18	10:00 am	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
	7:00 pm	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
Tues, 7/19	9-12 am	Summer Camp
	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
Wed, 7/20	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	9-12 am	Summer Camp
	11:00 am	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
	7:00 pm	Faith Home Gathering, Rm 201/Zoom
Thurs, 7/21		
	9-12 am	Summer Camp
	1:00 pm	Faith Home Gathering, at Fellowship Communities
Sat, 7/23	10-12 am	School Supplies Drive-By, Pavilion
Sun, 7/24	9:30 am	Worship Service Deadline for School Supplies Popsicle and Ice Cream Social; Meet and greet with new Music Director, Patrick Sandt



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!”

MEN’S BREAKFAST GROUP

The next Men’s Breakfast Group will meet on Saturday, August 6, at 8:30 at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton Street in Allentown. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at 610-393-6123 or QVRRBold@aol.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offerings received in the second week of July were \$2,605, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail, and in the Sunday offering plate. This brings our total offerings for July to \$7,719. To reach our monthly giving “break even target” of \$22,500, we will need \$4,925 weekly for the remainder of July. We continue to run behind on income sufficient to meet 100% of the month’s expenses. Recently we have seen a downward trend in giving. Through June, we are \$24,028 behind in overall income compared to expenses.

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.

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 on-line 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.**

**Taking my faith along to the polls:
an Invitation from**

**Rev. Becca Stephens
August 3 6:00-8:00 pm**



As a member of POWER Lehigh Valley, I see this year's upcoming general election as an opportunity for me to witness to my faith as it relates to our current political climate. Many think that separation of church and state means that we can't talk about politics in church. As a church we cannot promote a particular candidate because

that would violate the terms of our non-profit status, however, we can focus on political policies which impact all of us.

I believe that Jesus was modeling God's kingdom on earth, which we pray for every Sunday. Think about Jesus' ministry. Jesus intentionally reached out to people on the margins. That's what his ministry was all about.

As a woman of faith, I am looking at the policies advocated by political candidates. I am looking for candidates who are advocating for people on the margins: People dependent on food banks because their wages are too low, those living without homes, the LGBTQ community. I am looking for candidates who will support the rights of women, who will support the rights of all citizens to have access to the ballot, who will protect our voting rights, rather than restrict them. That's how I am looking at this year's election.

POWER Lehigh Valley is sponsoring a mass meeting August 3rd, 6-8pm at Resurrected Life Community Church, as an opportunity to learn about POWER Lehigh Valley, our campaigns and the work we are going to do together for the 2022 Election. Register here: bit.ly/powerlv22

I see voter engagement as a perfect way to put our faith into action. If you would like to know more you can reach me at 484-529-8369 or rystephens49@ptd.net

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.

“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.