

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton



575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052

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

**July 24, 2022  
9:30am**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

# The Order of Worship

~ *We Worship* ~

\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Chimes

Prelude

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel L. Schutte

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

Greeting to Patrick Sandt and Sean Hartman

\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

\*Call to Worship

Rev. Davis

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: We gather to rejoice in the Holy One.

**All: Revive us, O God, make us alive in Christ!**

One: We assemble as people called to community by and with the Redeemer.

**All: Restore us, O God, make us alive in Christ!**

One: We come open to the possibilities made new by the Creator.

**All: Revive us, O God, make us alive in Christ!**

\*Opening Hymn #46

“Hope of the World”

(verses 1, 2, & 4)

(To the tune “Perfect Love”)

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Prayer of Confession

Rev. Davis

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: Everlasting God, you build up and tear down. We confess that we have erected idols that need to be demolished in our time. We embrace complacency and comfort instead of following your vision of beloved community and liberation. We measure ourselves not against your precepts but by the standards of this world. We close our ears to voices we do not want to hear and our eyes to sights too painful to see.

**All: Tear down the fear of discomfort within us and rebuild us with the pillars of holy love, compassionate care, and Spirit-led action.**

**In your mercy, make us new. Amen**

*(Time for Silent prayer)*

Words of Assurance

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: The One who is holy and righteous makes us holy and righteous. We are participants, heirs, and co-creators of new life found in the redemptive love of Jesus Christ and in the realm of the Holy One which has no end.

**All: In this, grace abounds and liberates us to new mornings, new mercies, and new life. Amen.**

Children's Message

\*Scripture Reading

Luke 11:1-4

Rev. David Mohr

\*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. Becca Stephens

**Faith & Core Values: We are a Kingdom People**  
“Thy Kingdom Come - Dreaming God’s Dream”

Musical Offering

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Thomas A. Dorsey

Gregg Fisher, guitar and 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...

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Father and Mother, Loving God - through your many names we call to you in moments of prayer. Hear us. Receive our words, our groanings, our praise and gratitude...

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

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

**O Cross, that raises up my head, from you I dare not seek to flee;  
Life’s glories wither and are dead, but from the ground there  
blossoms red, life that shall endless be.**

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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*  
**God our Companion, receive these gifts as seeds to be  
nurtured and grown into new abundance, more possibilities,  
and magnifying gifts for your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

*~ We Serve ~*

\*Hymn # 76 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

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\*The Benediction Rev. Becca Stephens

Postlude “How Firm a Foundation”  
Joseph Funk  
Arr. by Cindy Berry

## **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, Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Tracey and Ron Glass, Geraldine Keim, Roger Knauss, 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**

Please visit with Margaret Young about any of these opportunities to share yourself in service! Thank you!

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 honor of Grace Mohr's birthday.

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **July 24**

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Ushers – Charlotte Kerringan, Susan Rarich and

Colleen Kulhamer

### **July 31**

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Ushers – Donna Lee Yeatts, Dewey Yeatts and Tom Moyer

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE - July 17**

On-site - 68

Online - 57

Total - 125

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Offerings received in the third week of July were \$6,230, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail, and in the Sunday offering plate. This brings our total offerings for July to \$13,948. To reach our monthly giving “break even target” of \$22,500, we will need \$2,850 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.

### **DEFICIT REDUCTION: AN OPTION FOR SOME?**

Sue Weldner updated the congregation on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> about the financial challenge of reducing our deficit. She indicated that we either need to reduce spending and/or increase income. The following Morning Call article (July 18) illustrates a way some members may be able to save on taxes while at the same time increasing donations.

“Q: Is there any way to avoid taxes on the Required Minimum Distribution from my IRA? The amount pushes me into the 22% bracket.”

“A: Great News-- You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution where the money bypasses you and goes straight to charity. Here’s how it works. If you are over age 70 1/12 you can grant up to \$100,000 directly to an eligible charity (not a private foundation, a charitable supporting organization or a donor advised fund) from your IRA, without paying tax on the amount of the donation. While you are not entitled to claim a charitable contribution, you won’t pay taxes on the money withdrawn and this will keep your highest tax bracket at 12%”

The bottom line: Save on Taxes? Yes. Increase contributions? Yes.

Note: This must be a direct transfer from one’s 401k account to the charity.

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

For the next few Sundays, draft copies of the new membership directory will be available in the parlor. Please look them over, and if any of your information has changed, make a note of it on one of these directories.

## **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](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com).

## **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 [crazzler@aol.com](mailto:crazzler@aol.com).

## **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.



## **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. 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.**

## **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.



**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](https://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](mailto:rystephens49@ptd.net)

# Church Calendar for the Week of July 24 - July 31, 2022

**\*Note** Pastor Steve will be taking a few days off from July 28 - August 3.

If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

Sun, 7/24 9:30 am      Worship Service  
Meet & Greet - Fox Hall  
Welcome Patrick and Sean  
Popsicle and Ice Cream Social  
Deadline for School Supplies

Tues, 7/26 9:30 am      Staff Meeting

Wed, 7/27 9:00 am      No Verso Chat today!

Sun, 7/31 9:30 am      Worship Service  
2:00 pm                  Pavilion private event  
Furnace Fund envelopes received

## **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	Office Administrator
sjfofficesecretary@gmail.com	
Thomas and Emilie Moyer	Financial Secretary
tommoyer54@gmail.com	
Michelle Gutekunst	Worship Tech & Coordinating Custodian
starsofstjohns@gmail.com	
custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com	
Bob Czekner	Custodian
rczekner11@aol.com	
Christina Bach	Custodian
ironton1@verizon.net	

Monday, August 1, is the official start date for our new Director of Music Ministries & Organist, Patrick Sandt! You can email Patrick with your words of welcome and greeting at [stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnsucc.music@rcn.com). Join us today as we welcome Patrick and his husband, Sean Hartman.