

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street ☩ Whitehall PA 18052

www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org ☩ 610-264-8421



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

A SERVICE FOR THE CONSECRATION OF
THE FIELD OF DREAMS & PAVILION



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

August 28, 2022
9:30am

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Gathering

Welcome to this time of celebration as a faith community, as we give thanks to God for giving us vision, creating within us the ability to dare the soul to go beyond what the eyes could see, and embrace the possibilities of new ways of being a people of community.

We are honored to have the leadership of our Penn Northeast UCC Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and our Pastor Emerita, Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith joining us today in this celebration of community.

Let us prepare our heart, mind and spirit to share our gratitude to God with and for each other, in the love and spirit of Christ.



This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there's always room for more.

— Rachel Held Evans —

Prelude

“My All Is Thine”

Sally DeFord

Soloists: Julie Mertus, Amanda Devaney, Emily Szuter

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

~ “Welcome Home Sunday!” - September 11

8:15am Worship Service & 10:45am Worship Service

9:30am Faith Formation Registration & Social

~ Celebrating Emma Kuczek-Repp’s 100th Birthday

9:30am Celebration in Fox Hall for All Ages

and in the 10:45am Worship Service

*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. Dr. Becky Beckwith

Adapted from UCC Worship Ways

One: Welcome to the banquet of hope, the open table of prayer, the inclusive circle of acceptance.

All: We come because we are invited.

One: Welcome to a fiesta of joy or a mercy meal of tenderness, where every seat is a place of honor.

All: We come because we are invited.

One: Welcome to a party for God’s love-reveal, where all seating is a circle, and karaoke is never necessary because we sing our own stories.

All: We come because we have an invitation, not on paper, simply our names.


*Opening Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

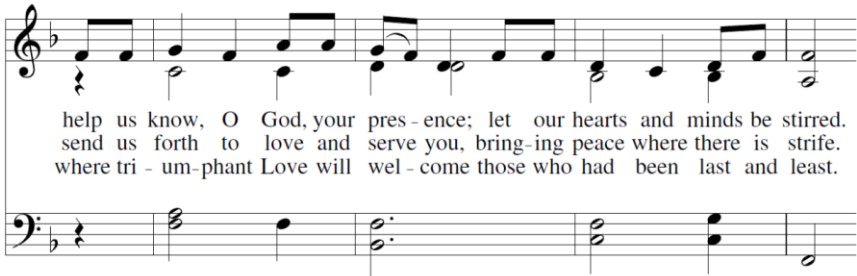
Hymn found on Page 3 of bulletin

As We Gather at Your Table 695

Unison



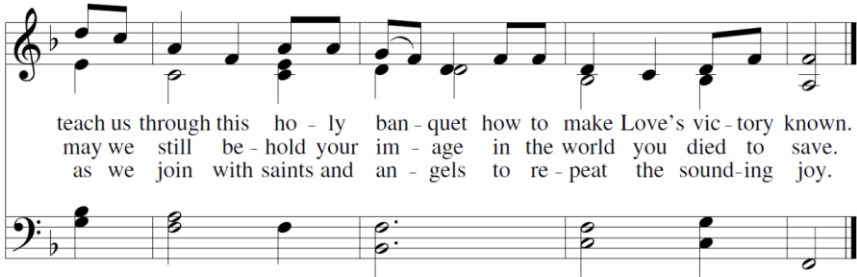
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-)
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D.

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 Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

Adapted from UCC Worship Ways

One: God, sometimes we say, “I’m too busy,” to invitations to kindness, friendship, community or activism, or pretend to be “too busy,” and avoid being indebted, pitied, or rubbing elbows with those who make us uncomfortable. Sometimes we accept an invitation to be involved, celebrate with someone, or just have coffee, but back out or “have something come up.”

All: Forgive us when we skip your life celebrations.

One: God, sometimes we are “imperfect guests,” wanting to be the center of attention, and other times we insist on always being host, giver, the one in control, receiver of praise and gratefulness.

All: Forgive us when we fail in gratitude or generosity and are resistant to opening access to the extravagant welcome of your beloved community. Amen.

(Time for Silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: God loves, invites, nudges, and embraces us in all our resistance to simply hold a balloon of joy and clap in celebration of who we are as God’s people.

All: We are forgiven; a plate is set for us. God’s field of dreams and banquet feast welcome us together. Amen.

Children’s Message

*Scripture Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Nancy Bowman

*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 Community

Musical Offering

“He Touched Me”

Bill Gaither

Margaret Batz, 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...

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

Praise Response

“And God Will Raise You Up”

And God will raise you up on eagles' wings,

Bear you on the breath of dawn.

Make you to shine like the sun,

And hold you in the palm of God's hands.

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.*

*Prayer of Dedication

From UCC Worship Ways

God, we bring these gifts, our response to your invitation. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. Amen.

A SERVICE FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE FIELD OF DREAMS & PAVILION St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton

Declaration of Purpose

Rev. Davis

Dear friends, these grounds and this pavilion, which by the favor of God and human labor has been completed, embodies the obligation of each generation to impart its treasures of growing a community and creating a spirit of joy and friendship so we might celebrate the gift of life in this time and for the generations to follow.

(Rev. Dr. Beckwith)

For the fulfillment of this long held dream, we need not only the best that we can do and offer and share, but above all the blessing of our loving and gracious God.

Let us, therefore, bring praise for God's dreams for us in this undertaking, giving thanks for those who, by their gifts of their service and generosity, shall unite in fulfilling the purpose for which this sacred space of land and building has been prepared.

Presentation of the Grounds and Building

John Viglione (Chairperson)

Charlie Apple, Gary Black, Janet Ebert, Jim Ebert, Brian Fisher, Jinny Hess, Wilbur Kline, Tom Moyer, Paul Raszler, Don Schneck, Roger Schneck.

Members of the Field of Dreams / Pavilion Committee stand before the congregation,
and appointed members say:

(John Viglione.)

We present this sacred space, a Field of Dreams and a Pavilion for people to gather in celebration to be consecrated to the glory of God, and for the purpose of growing joy and celebration in our community and preparing God's people for discipleship and service.

Act of Consecration

(Charlie Apple)

Dear friends, it is with joy that we gather to consecrate this sacred space, this place of abundance and joy, celebration and life!

(Gary Black)

However, the consecration of this building is vain without the consecration of those whose gifts it represents.

(Brian Fisher)

We acknowledge and honor all those whose vision, labor and gifts have helped St. John's UCC, Fullerton to welcome new generations of people as neighbors and community.

(Tom Moyer)

Let us give ourselves anew to the service of God:
our minds, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ;

(Don Schneck)

our bodies, that they may be temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors, that they may be pleasing to the heart of God,

(Roger Schneck)

and that their fruit may glorify God's many names and serve God's eternal purposes.

(Rev. Davis)

In the name of God, who is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
we consecrate these grounds.

(Rev. Dr. Bates)

In the name of God whose life and love make all things new,
we consecrate this building.

(Rev. Dr. Beckwith)

In the name of God who is all hope and grace who inspires the imaginations of people,
we consecrate this field.

(Rev. Davis)

In the name of God who welcomes all, loves all and embraces all so that our life might be full and our joy complete,
we consecrate this place of community.

(Rev. Dr. Bates)

To the spiritual abundance of all who shall come here, from the corner garden, to this pavilion, seeking friendship and peace, celebration and community,
we consecrate this place of community.

(Rev. Dr. Beckwith)

To the loyal service of those whose participation and generosity of spirit have prepared us to create and open spaces for play and joy, hope and celebration,
we consecrate this place of community.

(Rev. Dr. Bates)

To the ministry of community and fellowship, which we create in our family of faith, through our open hospitality and God's affirming blessing, which we protect through our faithfulness to model the love of Christ,
we consecrate this place of community.

(Rev. Dr. Beckwith)

To the wise conduct in our growing relationships and joyful spirit of our life together as we share our ministry in the world,
we consecrate this place of community.

(Rev. Davis)

and we consecrate ourselves anew to love and serve our fellow human beings, loving all, sharing the hope we have found in God, the love we have found in Christ, and the joy we have found in the Holy Spirit, in which...

we worship, we love, we serve ~ no matter what!

We consecrate our lives and these sacred spaces to God's glory!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Presentation of Appreciation for Leadership

(Gary Black)

Prayer of Gratitude

Rev. Dr. Bates

Almighty God,

hear us who gather here to consecrate ourselves to your service.

Grant that those who come here, whether as leaders, staff, guests, members, children at play, youth in celebration, adults in friendship or neighbors in community, may come with hospitality and gratitude, mission and ministry, laughter and love, and steadfast endeavor to share your joy and know we are all welcome here as your beloved children.

We give thanks to you for all who serve and give, who dream and labor, who share the bounty of blessing you have first placed into our hands and hearts. We thank you for our friends who dreamed long ago, and those who persisted to dream until the day came when we could see you work through us to bring dreams to reality. For all who have contributed by their love and devotion to you and the larger St. John's UCC, Fullerton community of faith, in which we share this great inheritance of faith, this legacy of love and these great blessings of hope and community. Help us guard this treasure, be blessed by it, nurture it, and pass it on to the coming generation, that they may serve you and grow your beloved community in this place; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

~ We Serve ~

*Hymn

Vs 1, 2 & 4

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham b. 1928

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In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Sharon Antrim, Bob Beckwith, Andi Dallago, Shirley Downing, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Ginny Hess, Ted Hess, Geraldine Keim, Roger Knauss, Alan Miller, Karen Moyer, Jack Ohl, Joey Raszler, Marietta Seyfried and Nancy Weaver.

We continue to pray for all those serving in our nation’s military and for their families for their sacrifices on behalf of our freedom.

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John’s, or use the church code 473.

If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

Serving in Worship Leadership

August 28

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Ushers – Colleen Kulhamer and Marion Demilio

September 4

Worship Tech – Michelle Gutekunst

Ushers – Janet Ebert, Bill Fink, Amy Feidler, and Cindy Reck.

Attendance - August 21

Onsite - 85 Online – 32

MEN’S BREAKFAST GROUP

The next Men’s Breakfast Group will meet on Saturday, September 3, at 8:30 am at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or QVRRBold@aol.com.

CELEBRATION!

On September 18, we will be celebrating the 100th birthday of Emma Kuczek-Repp. Make sure to visit with Joy Gravely and visit her table after worship and write a personal note to Emma.

Field of Dreams and Pavilion Contributors

Shirley Abel	Abby Hoffman
Larry & Freda Albright	Barbara Holden
Sharon Antrim	Tom & Doris Hunsicker
Charlie & Linda Apple	Robert & Barbara Jennings
Catherine Bachman	Susan Kaider
Robert & Annamarie Barrall	Nancy Keister
Judith Barron	Charlotte Kerrigan
Shirley Becks – Estate	Colleen Kulhamer
Bob & Rev. Becky Beckwith	Barbara Menges
Gary Black	Rev. David & Grace Mohr
Janice Blaker	Rev. Bonnie Moore
Sharon Borgman	Tom & Emilie Moyer
Nancy Bowman	Carole O’Connell
Don & Robin Brensinger	Mary Jane Ott
Kathy Bright	Brenda Pascoe
Virginia Brokenshire	Joan Phillips
David & Donna Brown	Bruce Pope
Johanna Carlisle	Linda Powell
Robert Christman, Jr.	Rev. Dave Quinn
Thomas Chryst	Paul & Carol Raszler
Nancy Delp	Cindy Reck
Marion DeMilio	William & Kathy Roth
Jim & Janet Ebert	Sarah Schaffer
Ronald & Nancy Eichman	Jeffrey & Barbara Seeds
Amy Feidler	Linda Smith
William Fink	Ron & Joan Stocker
William & LeAnn Focht	Brian and Bonnie Strauss
Don & Sharon Foellner	Rev. Evelyn Stupp
Jean Gilbert Memorial Fund	Melissa Szoke
Mike & Joy Gravely	John & Connie Viglione
Kathy Haggerty	Kevin & Kaitlyn Weidner
Donna & Keith Held	Gary & Cheryl Weaver
Rev. Cliffert Herring	Arline Yoder
Donna Herring	Margaret Young
Ted & Ginnie Hess	
Lucille Hicks	
Rev. John & Charlee Hoff	

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offerings received in the third week of August were **\$2,031**, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail and in the Sunday offering plate. This brings our total offerings for August to **\$14,120**, about **\$8,380** short of our monthly target of **\$22,500** in offerings, with one Sunday remaining.

Through July, we are **\$17,825** behind in overall income compared to expenses. Given income to date, we anticipate adding to this loss for August. To help and share an extra gift or increase your contributions by any amount, please contact the Church Office or Tom or Emilie Moyer, Financial Secretaries. Thank you for your faith and generosity!

FALL WORSHIP & FAITH FORMATION

Beginning September 11

8:15 & 10:45am Worship

9:30am Faith Formation

Our Consistory has voted 10-2 to welcome the church and community to two Sunday morning worship services, with Faith Formation (Sunday School) in between. We will worship at 8:15 & 10:45 beginning September 11, and have our “Welcome Home” rally at 9:30. Faith Formation classes are beginning to form now. If you’re interested in participating in your previous class or trying something new, register today on our website! You will see opportunities shared to take part in some well established groups and some new things! Come check them out any Sunday beginning September 11.

CONFIRMATION CLASS REGISTRATION

Confirmation in the Church is an intentional period of growth and preparation when young people can learn more about the Christian faith, how we experience that faith in the United Church of Christ, and who we are together in our faith as St. John’s UCC, Fullerton. Persons participate in weekly sharing from September to May, to acknowledge the pledge of faith that may have been made for them as infants/children in baptism, and to affirm the core faith and values we share.

If you are in the 7th or 8th grade and have not yet gone through a Confirmation Class, we invite you to contact the church office for more information about our 2022-23 Confirmation Class. Register on the website today!

GIFT CARD BINGO

Tickets are now available for the October 7th Gift Card Bingo. See Tom Moyer after church or come to the church office. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW - SEPT 24, 9am - 2 pm

We are looking for helpers! We need people to help sell food and basket tickets. Come early to help us set up and clean up after. Any and all help is appreciated. Please let Kenda Catalini know ASAP by phone (484) 358-7453 or email kpcatalini@aol.com.

CRAFTERS GROUP NEWS

We have lots of handmade kitchen items, household decorations, baby items, 12-bean soup mix and cookbooks. Check out our newest items: fabric baskets, patchwork table runners and bowl cozies. We'll be at the Craft & Vendor Fair on Saturday, September 24, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - look for us in the pavilion. Do your Christmas shopping early.

HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

Calling all St. John's Walkers. I'm looking forward to the 2022 Fall Walking Challenge. Please plan to join in the fun and rewards of counting your daily steps. The weather will be cooler and the trees will be changing colors. So much nature to see. Tentative dates are: beginning Sunday, September 11, 2022 and ending Saturday, October 8, 2022. October 9th is the Crop Walk. Contact Sharon Antrim at (610) 216-6207 or sharonantrim@yahoo.com.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of August, we are collecting **coffee, pancake syrup, and pancake mix**. 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.

NUT & FRUIT SALE

Choose from Deluxe Mixed Nuts (7 nuts, no peanuts), Pecan Halves, Whole Cashews, Whole Almonds, Healthy Mix (2 nuts, dried cranberries, raisins, pumpkin & sunflower seeds), Dark Chocolate Cranberries, Chocolate Bridge Mix (7 nuts, pineapple, raisins), Harvest Medley Mix (3 nuts, dried cherries & cranberries). All are \$12.00/lb. Orders are taken in advance by contacting Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com. Order forms are in the September Connections Newsletter and on the foyer table. Those who purchased last year will be contacted via email or phone. Delivery anticipated by mid-November. Pick-up will be by a scheduled drive-by and after worship. Payment is due when delivered, payable to St. John's. **Deadline to place orders is Saturday, October 1.**

Church Calendar for the Week of August 28 - September 4, 2022

Sun, 8/28	9:30 am	Outdoor Worship Service and Pavilion Consecration
	11:00 am	Healthcare Ministry
Tues, 8/30	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed, 8/31	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs, 9/1	7:00 pm	Worship and Music Committee
Fri, 9/2	6:00 pm	CELC Open House
Sat, 9/3	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 9/4	9:30 am	Worship Service

OUR STAFF

*We are beginning to update several staff email addresses.
Please make note of these changes for future correspondence.*

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org	
Rev. David Quinn	Visitation Pastor
pedalinpastor@gmail.com	
Patrick Sandt	Director of Music Ministries
sjfmusic@sjucf.org	& Organist
Alison Berger Boor	Office Administrator
sjfofficesecretary@sjucf.org	
Sue Weldner	Treasurer
sbweldner@gmail.com	
Thomas and Emilie Moyer	Financial Secretary
tommoyer54@gmail.com	
Michelle Gutekunst	
sjfstars@sjucf.org	Worship Tech &
custodiansofstjohns@gmail.com	Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner	Custodian
rczekner11@aol.com	
Christina Bach	Custodian
ironton1@verizon.net	