

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

**September 11, 2022
8:15 am & 10:45 am**

Welcome Home Sunday

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

As the music begins, please find your place and begin to center your spirit for our worship of God together.

Prelude

Longing
Mark Hayes

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

***Call to Worship**

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Come, Beloved of God, the blistering wind of life is not the end.

All: **May the eye of the storm still us into wholeness and hope.**

One: May the wind of God, turn us around toward trust in Holy promises.

All: **May our promises to God be pressed anew into our hearts and minds.**

One: May everything of excess be released and refined for Love's good work.

All: **May God's vision of a world made new arise from God's wind in and through us.**

***Opening Hymn**

All Are Welcome (Vs. 1 & 2)

Hymn can be found on Page 2

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: O God, have mercy on us because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been our daily detour. Wash us inside and out with the waters of Your love because our life carries a residue of regret we cannot shake loose on our own. We know ourselves too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to us. Now take every burden that crushes and form in us a new creation. Take every iniquity and instill your sweet song of forgiveness and wholeness.

All: **Let your wisdom rise in our minds and your mercy in our hearts that we may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mend not only us but the world. And may Your loving truth form a new creation in us all. Amen.**

(Time for Silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Hear this good news: God's loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent power.

All: **God has forgiven us and invites us to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our life with others. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

(10:45) Children's Message

(10:45) Hymn #252

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

(Verses 1 and 2)

***Scripture Reading**

Luke 15:1-10

(8:15) Sharon Antrim

(10:45) Tyler Shankweiler

*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

“Welcome Home! Rejoice with me!”

(8:15) Hymn #252

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

(Verses 1 and 2)

(10:45) Musical Offering

Take My Hand

Jan McGuire/Llyod Larson

Chancel Choir

~ 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...

Remembering 9/11

O Holy breath of God, sweep through our lives. Help us pause to your presence, slowing our breathless pace. Refine in us a renewed willingness to bring gracious goodness into the chaos of the world. Let our memories on this day, call forth an alternative to the easy response of violence for violence. Form instead a steady commitment to return love in the face of fear, hope in the midst of despair, and mercy for every brokenness of the world's design. Show us to seek wholeness and find blessing through our trust in you. By this, form anew the heart and mind of Christ in us, here, now, today.

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

If You Believe and I Believe
Text: Zimbabwean traditional

*If you believe and I believe and we together pray,
The Holy Spirit must come down And set God's people free, And
set God's people free, And set God's people free;
The Holy Spirit must come down And set God's people free.*

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 God all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** *Adapted from UCC Worship Ways*

O Love, stretch wide our hearts, open our minds, saturate our souls and form us anew in the gift of this day. Our lives are gifts not of our making. Generous God, show us every lost coin, sheep or beloved child until fullness of joy grows with each celebration. As we share in the sacred savoring that comes with self-giving, may your Love's delight grow in us. Amen.

~ We Serve ~

***Hymn**

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Just a Closer Walk with Thee 504



1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je- sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea,



D.C. for Refrain

I'll be sat-is-fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur-den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent-ly, safe-ly o'er to thy king-dom shore, to thy shore.
dai-ly walk-ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous

CLOSER WALK
Irregular

***The Benediction**

Postlude

Processional in C

Hal Hopson

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Altar Flowers

- ~ Two vases in loving memory of my grandmother, Myrtle Saylor's birthday on Sept 11, by granddaughter, Sandy Koch.
- ~ One vase in honor of Barbara and Bob Menges 58th wedding anniversary.

In Our Prayers

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

Prayers of joy for Bill Castello and Steve Davis, proud new uncles, at the birth of Zoey LaRue Tsuchiya to niece and nephew Becky and Jake in Austin, TX.

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

September 11

Acolyte 10:45 - Austyn Venanzi

Ushers 8:15 - Sharon Antrim & Susan Rarich

10:45 - Wayne Lichtenwalner & Margaret Young

Worship Tech 8:15 - Michelle Gutekunst & Susan Rarich

10:45 - Michelle Gutekunst

September 18

Acolyte 10:45 - Elijah Fox

Ushers 8:15 - Susan Rarich, Linda Apple & Charlie Apple

10:45 - Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello & Susan Rarich

10:45 - Bill Castello

Attendance - September 4

Onsite -80 Online -17

Worship & Music Committee - Opportunities to Serve

As we expand to two Sunday worship services, there are many opportunities to assist with worship leadership!

Please sign up to be an usher/greeter, or scripture reader.

Sponsor the wheat basket at the altar to support the food bank. Sponsor altar flowers on a Sunday. Help with worship tech/sound!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offerings received in the first week of September were \$5,409, a combination of offerings received electronically, in the mail, and in the Sunday offering plate.

To reach our monthly giving “break even target” of \$22,500, we will need \$5,700 weekly for the remainder of September. 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 August, we are \$24,695 behind in overall income compared to expenses.

CELEBRATION!

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

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!

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. Contact Sharon Antrim at (610) 216-6207 or sharonantrim@yahoo.com.

CROP HUNGER WALK

This year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, starting at 1:30 pm at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church located at 140 S. Ott St. in Allentown. Walkers are needed and members can sponsor our walkers with your donations. Please see Marion DeMilio after worship to make a donation or to be a walker.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on October 1 at 8:30 am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at 610-393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

GIFT CARD BINGO

We are in need of the following items for the October 7th Gift Card Bingo:
1) Items for our "Tricky Tray" drawings. They can be any type of gift or gift card, and should be worth \$20 to \$30. Please tell Cheryl Weaver or Tom Moyer what you will bring! 2) 6 packs of 12 ounce Coca-Cola soft drinks. We need regular and diet. 3) Baked goods to sell, should be individually wrapped. If you are able to help out with any of these items, please talk to Cheryl Weaver or Tom Moyer.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Calling all blood donors....Keystone-Miller Blood Center is in need of blood donations. Due to the aftereffects of Covid, the blood center is having difficulty providing manpower for community blood drives. Please go to your nearest donation center. Give the St.John's UCC Fullerton code, 0872, so we get the credit for your donation. Thank you for your understanding and patience through these difficult times. Sharon Antrim is hoping to schedule a blood drive at church in the spring.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of September, we are collecting **drip coffee and canned or instant potatoes**. 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. You can also bring food donations to the Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, September 24, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - we'll be in the pavilion.

Church Calendar for the Week of September 11-18, 2022

Sun, 9/11	8:15 am Worship Service 10:45 am Worship Service
Mon, 9/12	10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Jubilation Choir
Tues, 9/13	10:30 am Visitation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Elders 7:00 pm Consistory
Wed, 9/14	9:00 am Verso Chat 6:30 pm Zumba 7:00 pm Chancel Choir
Sat, 9/17	9:30 am Zumba 2:00 pm Decorate Fox Hall
Sun, 9/18	8:15 am Worship Service 9:30 am Emma's 100th birthday celebration 10:45 am Worship Service

OUR STAFF

Rev. Steve Davis sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org	Senior Pastor
Rev. David Quinn pedalinpastor@gmail.com	Visitation Pastor
Patrick Sandt sjfmusic@sjuccf.org	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
Alison Berger Boor sjfofficesecretary@sjuccf.org	Office Administrator
Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com	Treasurer
Thomas and Emilie Moyer tommoeyer54@gmail.com	Financial Secretary
Michelle Gutekunst sjfstars@sjuccf.org sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org	Worship Tech & Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com	Custodian
Christina Bach ironton1@verizon.net	Custodian

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