

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

**November 27, 2022  
8:15 am & 10:45 am**

**The First Sunday in Advent  
HOPE**

# *The Order of Worship*

## *~ We Worship ~*

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

*Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton! We are a place where love can grow!*

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

**Prelude (8:15AM & 10:45AM)**

Longing for Messiah

*Mark Hayes*

**(10:45AM)**

A Call to Advent

Chancel Choir

*J. Jerome Williams*

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

~ Furnace Loan Fund Offering – Today

~ Service of the Nativity - Sunday, Dec. 18, 6pm

~ Christmas Eve, 6pm & 9pm / Christmas Day, 10:45am

**\*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*

*(Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)*

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"

**All: We come today with eager expectation. Our feet are standing within God's gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation. Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
Hymn Found on page 3

**Lighting of Advent Wreath**

Keith & Wendy Fox Family  
Kendra & Elijah

**The Candle of Hope**

One: Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

**All: God of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.**

One: Advent is a time of self-examination.

**All: God of Light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.**

One: Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

**All: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.**

One: Advent is a time of service and searching.

**All: God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.**

One: Today, we light the first candle — the candle of hope — reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

**Sung Response**

*A Candle is Burning*  
(Set to *Away in a Manger*)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
A candle of Hope in November's dark night,  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D.

## Prayer of Confession

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

**All: In a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God. Consumed by the chaos of the world, we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace. We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods felt in days when unborn hope had died; we've forgotten that you promised us hope for a future. So, stimulate our memory, dear God. Remind us of that hope of which you assured us. Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.**

*(Time for Silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

One: God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and unconditional love.

**All: God of hope, we pray today that you will fill us with hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help us live each day as beacons of hope.**

## (10:45) Children's Message

Children and the youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps. "Busy bags" are at the kids table in the parlor and Rm 201 is open for those whose kids want additional activities and space during worship. The livestream of worship is shown there. Please have an adult join them!

## (10:45) Hymn

*Soon and Very Soon*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

Hymn found on page 5

# 384      Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
 2 No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 3 No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

**\*Scripture Reading**

Matthew 24:36-44  
(8:15) Tyler Shankweiler  
(10:45) Sharon Czekner

\*Please stand in body or in spirit for the reading of God's Word.

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

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

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

**Advent Through the Movies**

God's Gifts in Advent: God's Gift of Hope

**(8:15) Hymn**

*Soon and Very Soon*

Hymn found on page 5      Verses 1, 2, and 4

**(10:45) Special Music**

*Is Your Heart Prepared for A King*

Chancel Choir

Robert Lau

*~ 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, whose eternal love and grace draws us together to pray, saying...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

## 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  
Based on Veni, Emmanuel*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'n-ly host:  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

One: For the wondrous ways this offering creates community,

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission,

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly.

**All: We dedicate these gifts of hope! Amen.**

*~ We Serve ~*

### \*Hymn: 116

*O Come O Come Emmanuel  
Verses 1 and 2*

### \*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

### Postlude

*Variation on Veni, Emmanuel  
Noel Rawesthorne*

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship  
is concluded and our service in the world continues.*

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out  
to be the people of God in our community.*

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## **In Our Prayers**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Richard Baatz, Carl Case, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Ginny Hess, Ted Hess, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Alan Miller, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Charleah Sandt, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Cheryl Weaver and Nancy Weaver.

The 5 beautiful souls we lost at Club Q, in Colorado Springs, CO: Daniel Davis Aston (28), Raymond Green Vance, Kelly Loving (40), Ashley Paugh (35), and Derrick Rump (38 from Kutztown, PA).

The 7 souls lost in Chesapeake, VA on Tuesday evening.

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 to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

1 vase in honor of daughter and granddaughter Alyssa Kathi Lopez's birthday by parents Lee Ann and Robert Lopez and Nana Nancy Keister.

### **Attendance - November 20**

Onsite - 8:15 - 43 10:45 - 70 Total Onsite - 113 Online - 30

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

#### **November 27**

Ushers 8:15 - Kim Hillegass & Carole O'Connell

10:45 - Austyn Venanzi, Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello

10:45 - Bill Castello & Elijah Fox

#### **December 4**

Ushers 8:15 - Janet Ebert, Margaret Young,

Amy Fiedler, Cindy Reck

10:45 - DonnaLee Yeatts, Wayne Lichtenwalner, Brian Fisher

Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello

10:45 - Bill Castello & Elijah Fox

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 2022

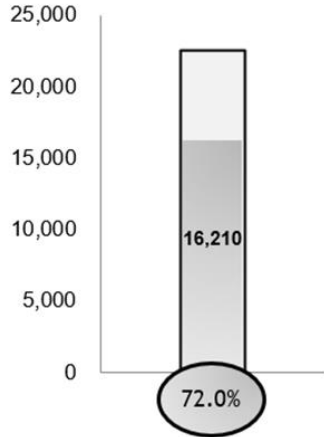
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	16,210.18
Overall Percent	72.0%

Last Week	
Start:	11/20/22
End:	11/26/22
Total:	3,046.68

Amt need to reach Target	
NOVEMBER 2022	6,289.82

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



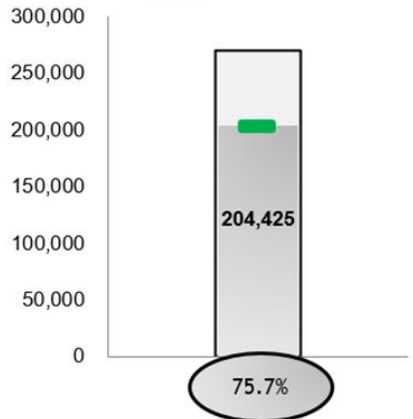
## YTD OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 2022

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	202,500.00
Overall Total	204,424.55
Overall Percent	75.7%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## **CELEBRATING REV. GEORGE ECKSTEIN**

We join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. George Eckstein this week.

## **SHARING OUR CARE AND SUPPORT**

The Visitation Committee is looking for new members! Some members visit the Homebound, others minister with cards and phone calls. The Committee is also putting together Christmas gift bags for our homebound members. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## **SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY**

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, St. John's will be holding our first ever Service of the Nativity, beginning at 6PM. This is a beautiful service centered on our Spiritual journey through the season of Advent and bringing us to the story of nativity, told through the eyes of each character instrumental in the Birth of our Lord.

We will be having light refreshments immediately following the service downstairs in fox hall, in addition to those present, as a way to tie our Spiritual lives and home lives together, will receive a handmade ornament on behalf of St. John's that you can put on your trees.

It is truly a beautiful night of worship and fellowship told through reflections and music as we prepare to celebrate the Miracle of Christmas together.

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

Donations are needed for the Christmas holiday meal. We need boxes of stuffing or filling mix. Monetary donations will also be used to purchase gift certificates for turkeys. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY**

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown. The group meets the 4th Tuesday monthly at 1pm in the upper level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at [estupp@asburylv.org](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or 610-428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, December 27**.

## **HAPPY FRIENDSGIVING**

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be celebrating Friendsgiving Day on Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30 PM in Fox Hall. Ladies, come join us as we spend a relaxing evening together playing games, making an easy art project and growing friendships. Refreshments will be served. Please use the elevator entrance to join us and I will see you there!

## **OPERATION SANTA - MITTEN TREE**

You can find the Mitten Tree at the rear of the sanctuary. Please remove a mitten if you wish to make a monetary contribution for seniors at Phoebe Ministries (red mitten) and/or children and teens at Valley Youth House (yellow mitten). From your donations, gifts will be purchased by the staff at both locations. **Deadline is Sunday, November 27**.

## **NUT AND FRUIT SALE**

For anyone who did not place an order for our annual Nut & Fruit Sale, we have a few extra bags left of **Deluxe Mixed Nuts, Cashews, Harvest Medley, Healthy Mix, Dark Chocolate Cranberries, and Bridge Mix**. Cost is **\$12.00**. each. Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) to make your purchase.

## **UKRAINE RELIEF FUND - THE NEED CONTINUES**

As long as the crisis continues, we will receive donations at worship, by mail, or by online and text giving. Donations of \$120 for October was given to UCC National, and donations for the month of November will be given to Project HOPE. For the month of December, donations will be given to 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.

## **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 December 3 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](mailto:QVRRBold@aol.com).

## **LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?**

The Crafters Group will have items for sale in the lounge area before and after both worship services on Sundays December 4 and December 11. There's still time for you to make purchases for Christmas. Choose from a large assortment of Christmas decorations, ornaments and stocking stuffers. There are kitchen and household items like tea towels, table runners, dishcloths and bowl cozies. Baby and children's items include sweaters, bibs, burping cloths, boo-boo bunnies and doll sweaters. Don't forget we also have church cookbooks, 12 bean soup mix and much more. You can also contact Carol Raszler at 6101-393-7572 or at [crazzler@aol.com](mailto:crazzler@aol.com) to make any purchases.

## **CHOCOLATE SALE**

Home-made semi-sweet chocolate coconut cream and peanut butter eggs. Cost is \$14.00 per pound. **Deadline to order is November 27, 2022.** See Ginny Brokenshire for questions.

## **BASKET SOCIAL**

The Basket Social in Fox Hall will be held Saturday, December 3 from 3:00—6:00 pm and Sunday, December 4, from 8:00 until 1:00. Food will be available on Sunday only. Baskets are still needed!

## **QUIET CHRISTMAS**

The community is invited to a “Quiet Christmas” worship service at Asbury United Methodist Church (1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown) on December 21st at 7 PM. The service is especially designed to offer God’s hope and healing in the midst of grief, relationship/job loss or other life transitions/events. The service will include hymns and special music, Scripture and reflection, prayers and candle lighting. All are welcome.

## **Church Calendar for the Week of Nov 27 - Dec 4, 2022**

- Sun, 11/27 8:15 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Faith Formation/Confirmation (open)  
10:45 am Worship Service
- Mon, 11/28 6:00 pm Bells of St. John  
7:00 pm Jubilation Choir
- Tues, 11/29 9:30 am Staff Meeting  
6:40 pm Peeps “Friendsgiving”
- Wed, 11/30 9:00 am Verso Chat  
6:30 pm Zumba  
6:30 pm Missions, via Zoom  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
- Thurs, 12/1 6:30 pm Property Committee
- Sat, 12/3 8:30 am Men’s Breakfast  
Hamilton Family Restaurant  
9:30 am Zumba  
3:00-6:00 pm Basket Social
- Sun, 12/4 8-1:00 pm Basket Social  
8:15 am Worship Service - Communion  
9:30 am Faith Formation/Confirmation  
10:45 am Worship Service - Communion

## **OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis Senior Pastor  
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Patrick Sandt Director of Music Ministries  
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**New Newsletter Articles email address!** newsletter@sjuccf.org