

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



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

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

**The Third Sunday in Advent  
JOY**

# 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**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Arr. by Mitchell Eithrun

Bells of St. John's

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

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

~ Quiet Christmas - Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7pm, Asbury UMC

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

~ New Year's Day - Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:45am only

### **\*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 Luke 1:46b-55, The Magnificat)*

**One:** Our souls magnify the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

**All:** **We come today with eager hope, awaiting God's new revelation.**

**One:** The mighty One has done great things!

God's mercy covers generations.

**All:** **We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.**

**One:** The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry,  
dwells with us.

**All:** **We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.**

**\*Opening Hymn #110**

*Now Bless the God of Israel*  
Verses 1 and 2

**Lighting of Advent Wreath**

(8:15) Don and Sharon Foellner  
(10:45) Jim and Janet Ebert

**The Candle of Joy**

One: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

**All: Lord of light we thank you for the gift of life.**

One: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

**All: Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

One: Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

**All: Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

One: Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

**All: Lord of Light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

One: Today, we light three candles—hope, peace and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

**Sung Response**

*A Candle is Burning*

(Sung to the tune of *Away in A Manger*)

**A candle is burning, a candle of Joy!**

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

## 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. God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength.

**All: Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

One: In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is good to know that God's love for us is sure—that God's commitment to us is definite—that God is walking with us, guiding us, as the compassionate companion that we are called to be for each other.

**All: Let us live into this gift. Amen.**

## (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 children want additional activities and space during worship.

The livestream of worship is shown there. Please have an adult join them!

**Hymn**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 5

**\*Scripture Reading**

Matthew 11: 2-5  
(8:15) Janet Ebert  
(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 Joy  
Film - National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

**Special Music**

*The Lord of Glory*  
Francis Patrick O'Brien

Jubilation 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...

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Christ, whose hope, peace and joy draw us together to pray, saying...

**The Lord's Prayer** (page 6)

## In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;  
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there,  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:  
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid-win-ter, a sta-ble-place suf-ficed,  
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.  
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.  
 wor-shipped the Be-lov-ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
 MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM  
 Irregular

## 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

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this  
community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it will 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: Amen.**

## ~ We Serve ~

**\*Hymn # 145**

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Verses 1 and 2

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**Postlude**

*Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*  
M. Haugen

*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, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Cheryl Weaver 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.

**Did you know...?** You can sponsor Sunday bulletins as well as altar flowers. Cost is \$20 for bulletins, \$25 for flowers and the monthly newsletter can be sponsored for \$100.

### **Altar Flowers**

One vase in loving memory of maternal grandmother Ella Wetzel by grandson Tom Chryst.



## **Attendance - December 4**

Onsite - 8:15 - 43 10:45 - 67 Total Onsite - 110 Online - 26

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **December 11**

Ushers 8:15 - Kim Hillegass & Carole O'Connell  
10:45 - Sharon Czekner, Bob Czekner & Wendy Fox  
Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello  
10:45 - Jesus Pagan

### **December 18**

Ushers 8:15 - Karen Stoitsits & Sharon Antrim  
10:45 - Margaret Young & Amy Fiedler  
Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello  
10:45 - Bill Castello



## **ALAN MILLER SERVICES**

Family, colleagues and friends may pay their respects 4:00pm – 6:00pm, Thursday, January 5, 2023 at Jordan United Church of Christ, 1837 Church Road, Allentown.

A Memorial Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the legacy of Rev. Miller will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, January 6, 2023 at the same location.

Child care will be provided during the service for pre-school children. A livestream of the service will be available on the Jordan U.C.C. website by following the link [jordanucc.org/online-worship](http://jordanucc.org/online-worship).

Cards of sympathy may be sent to Candy Miller, 4080 Saint Johns St., Highpoint, NC 27265

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

DECEMBER 2022

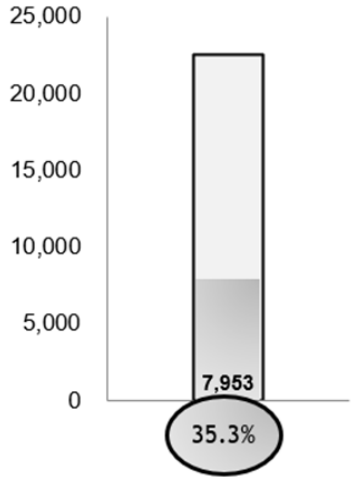
<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	7,952.68
Overall Percent	35.3%

<i>Last Week</i>	
Start:	12/4/22
End:	12/10/22
Total:	5,768.68

<i>Amt need to reach Target</i>	
DECEMBER 2022	14,547.32

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



## YTD OFFERINGS

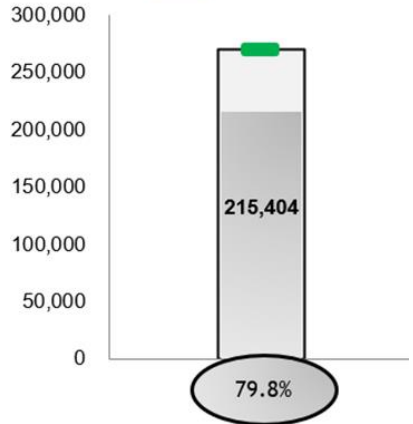
DECEMBER 2022

<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	270,000.00
Overall Total	215,403.57
Overall Percent	79.8%



### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## **SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY**

Sunday, December 18, St. John's will be holding our first 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 have light refreshments immediately following the service downstairs in Fox Hall. As a way to tie our spiritual lives and home lives together, those present 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.

## **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**.

## **THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This year, as we rejoice at churches re-opening and possibilities for gathering and worshipping together once again, we anticipate the "good news of great joy" at Christmas. Still, challenges remain for many of our pastoral leaders who continue to experience loss of income as congregations struggle with budget shortfalls. Special offering envelopes were in the December newsletter and are in the bulletin. The offering will be received on Sunday, December 18 and continue to the end of the month.

## **LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?**

The Crafters Group will have items for sale in the lounge area before and after both worship services today. 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 610-393-7572 or at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) to make any purchases.

## **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.

## **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 and Cashews. Cost is \$12.00 each. See Carol Raszler after worship or call at 610-393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com) to make your purchase.

## **FILLING SALE**

Do you need filling for Christmas dinner? There is filling (both with and without onion) left over from the Thanksgiving sale, frozen and available for purchase. See Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

Donations are needed for the Christmas holiday meal. We are not just asking for boxes of stuffing mix. Think of what foods you are preparing this Christmas day and bring those non-perishable items into church and place them in the shopping cart in the coatroom area. Monetary donations will also be used to purchase gift certificates for turkeys. The pantry will begin distribution of these items on December 19.

## **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 **January 7 at 8:30 a.m.** 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).

## **ST. JOHN'S IS A GIVING CHURCH**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent Outreach programs. Donations have been sent to the following organizations:

"Operation Santa" – \$620 to Phoebe Ministries & \$680 to Valley Youth House.

"Hurricanes 2022 Fund" – \$375 to UCC National.

"Ukraine Relief Fund" – \$100 to Project HOPE.

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

Cold winter months are settling in for the people of Ukraine as they are dealing without heat, electricity or food, as well as destroyed homes and businesses due to missile attacks from Russia. For the month of November, \$100 was given to Project HOPE. For the month of December, donations will be given 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.

## **REMINDER!**

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

Quiet Christmas - Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7pm, Asbury UMC

Christmas Eve, 6pm & 9pm

Christmas Day, 10:45am only

New Year's Day - Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:45am only

## **Church Calendar for the Week of Dec 11 - Dec 18, 2022**

Sun, 12/11	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
		Newsletter Deadline
Mon, 12/12	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation and Chancel Choirs
Tues, 12/13	1:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Spiritual Council Elders
	6:30 pm	Consistory Potluck with ALL ELDERS
	7:00 pm	Consistory Meeting
Wed, 12/14	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Combined Choirs
Sat, 12/17	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 12/18	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Service of the Nativity and Reception

**OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org	Senior Pastor
Patrick Sandt sjfmusic@sjucf.org	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
Alison Berger Boor sjfofficesecretary@sjucf.org	Office Administrator
Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com	Treasurer
Thomas and Emilie Moyer tommoyer54@gmail.com	Financial Secretary
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