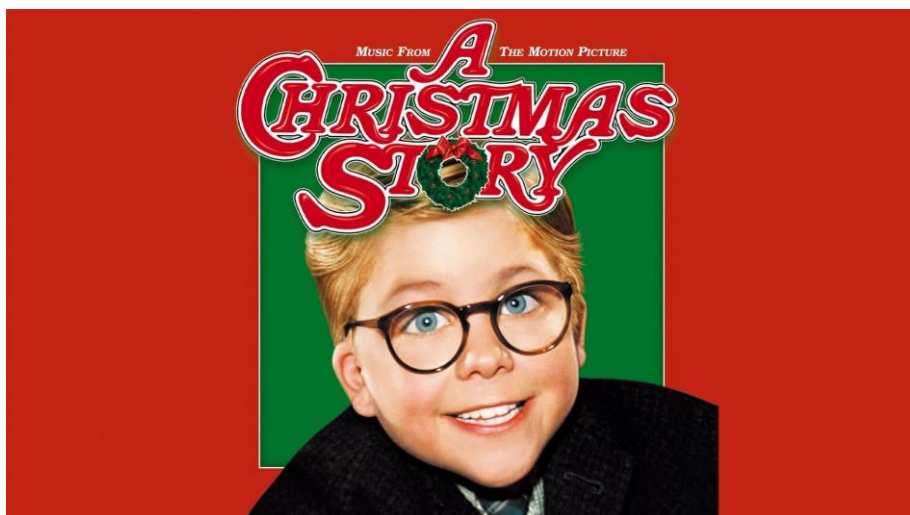


# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



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

**December 18, 2022  
8:15 am & 10:45 a.m.**

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
LOVE**

# *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**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Arr. by John Purifoy  
*Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming*  
Arr. by Gordon Young

### **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**

*(Inspired by Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)*

One: We come seeking a sign from You, the One who sits upon the throne.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your salvation.**

One: We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your salvation.**

One: We come seeking to witness your might, a child to be born in a coming night.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your salvation. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn #116**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
Verses 1 and 7

**Lighting of Advent Wreath**

(8:15) Walt and Janice Walenta  
(10:45) Tom and Emilie Moyer

**The Candle of Love**

One: Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear

**All: God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.**

One: Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

**All: God of love, help us speak truth with kindness**

One: Advent is a time to share with those in need.

**All: God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.**

One: Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

**All: God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.**

One: Today, we light four candles—hope, peace, joy and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ's eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God's image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God's love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

**Sung Response**

*A Candle is Burning*

(Sung to the tune of Away in A Manger)

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

**A candle to point us to heaven above.**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

## 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 our shepherd – Restorer of our souls, in a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you have shown your hope in endless ways.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your hope.**

One: In the mirey mess of the world, we have sometimes neglected to lean into your peace that transcends comprehension.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your peace.**

One: In a culture shrouded in doom and despair, we have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your joy.**

One: In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently, love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love. Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator. Remind us that even in our weakness, you are mighty.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

One: God has never left us nor forsaken us. God is Emmanuel in the face of crisis, Emmanuel, in the midst of calamity, Emmanuel in the presence of tribulation, God with us, helping our unbelief, bringing us back to life, reminding us that we are light.

**All: Let that be good news. Amen.**

## (10:45) Children's Message

Children and 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!

## (10:45) Hymn

*What Child is This*  
Verses 1 and 2

Found on page 5

## \*Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25  
(8:15) Janet Ebert  
(10:45) Dewey Yeatts

\*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 Love

Film - A Christmas Story

**(10:45) Special Music:** *Carol for Advent*—Don Besig/Nancy Price  
Chancel Choir

## (8:15) Hymn

*What Child is This*  
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on Pg. 5

## What Child Is This

184

Em D/F# G D Em Am/C B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own him;

Em D/F# G D Em Am B Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

*Refrain*  
Bm G D Em Am/C B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the Vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em Am B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

WORDS: William C. Dix (1837-1898)

MUSIC: English melody, 16th c.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES

8.7.8.7.Ref.

## ~ 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

**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: We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community.

**All: Let these gifts do justice in the world so that all may know they are loved by God. Amen.**

*~ We Serve ~*

**\*Hymn # 133**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Verses 1 and 4

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**Postlude**

*People Look East*  
Stephen L. Aber

*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.*

*All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted under OneLicense #A-735634.*

**In Our Prayers**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Richard Baatz, Jim Carr, Carl Case, Sandra Diefenderfer, Robert and Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Ginny Hess, Ted Hess, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Jean Litzenberger, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Donna Rice, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Gary Weaver and family, 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 honor of Bob Menges 80th Birthday by wife Barbara.  
Two arrangements in loving memory of Cheryl Weaver by husband, Gary and family.

### **Attendance - December 11**

Onsite - 8:15 - 65 10:45 - 45 Total Onsite - 110 Online - 32

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

#### **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

#### **December 24**

Ushers 6pm - Brian Fisher, Tracy Fisher, Kayleigh Fisher & Carson Strauss

9pm - Linda Apple, Charlie Apple, Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

Worship Tech 6pm - Michelle Gutekunst

9pm - Bill Castello

#### **December 25**

Ushers 10:45 - Colleen Kulhamer, Wayne Lichtenwalner & Dewey Yeatts

Worship Tech 10:45 - Bill Castello

### **CHERYL WEAVER SERVICE**

The funeral service for Cheryl Weaver will be Monday, December 19, at 11:00am. Viewing and Calling hours begin at 9:30 with an Order of the Easter Star ritual at 10:45, just before the service begins. Interment will be in Coopersburg.

## **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.

## **SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY**

Tonight, 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.



## **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 11:00am, 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

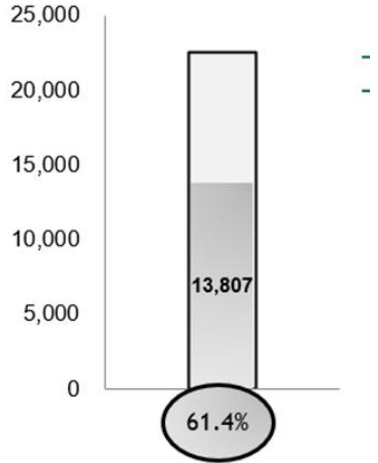
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	13,806.78
Overall Percent	61.4%

Last Week	
Start:	12/11/22
End:	12/17/22
Total:	5,854.10

<i>Amt need to reach Target</i>	
DECEMBER 2022	8,693.22

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



## YTD OFFERINGS

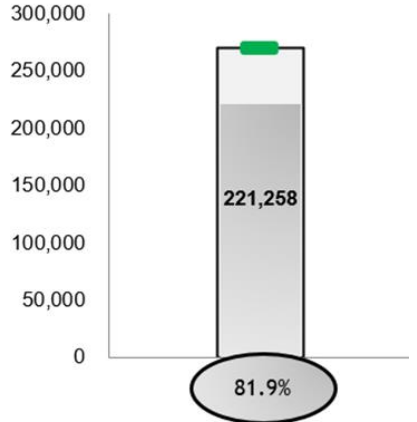
DECEMBER 2022

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	270,000.00
Overall Total	221,257.67
Overall Percent	81.9%



### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## **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 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 worshiping 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 in the bulletin. The offering will be received on Sunday, December 18 and continue to the end of the month.

## **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.

## 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 & \$680.00 to Valley Youth House.

“Hurricanes 2022 Fund” – \$375.00 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.

### 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.

### Church Calendar for the Week of Dec 18 - Dec 25, 2022

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
Mon., 12/19	9:30 am	Viewing and Calling Hour for Cheryl Weaver
	11:00 am	Funeral Service
Tues, 12/20	9:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed, 12/21	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Combined Choirs
Sat, 12/24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun, 12/25	10:45 am	Christmas Day Service

**OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org	Senior 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 tommoyer54@gmail.com	Financial Secretary
Michelle Gutekunst sjfstars@sjuccf.org sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org	Worship Tech & Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com	Custodian
Christina Bach iron1ton1@verizon.net	Custodian
<b>New Newsletter Articles email address!</b>	newsletter@sjuccf.org