

# 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 25, 2022  
10:45 a.m.**

**Christmas Day**

# *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**

*Medley of Carols  
(Silent Night, O Holy Night, the First Noel)  
Patrick Sandt, Piano*

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

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

~ Consistory Installation, Sunday, January 8

~ Baptismal Affirmation, Sunday, January 15

### **\*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 Isaiah 9)*

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them, light  
has shined.

**All: We long for a light to guide us.**

One: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.

**All: We long for God's joy in our lives.**

One: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their  
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.

**All: We long to be relieved of all the heavy burdens we carry.**

One: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is  
named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.

**All: He is named Emmanuel: God with us. In this tiny baby,  
this vulnerable child, we find our light, our joy, our  
eternal hope. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

\*Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

Verses 1 and 3

CHRISTMAS

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
glo - ry to the God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

WORDS: Attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)  
MUSIC: John F. Wade's Cantes Diversi, 1751

ADESTE FIDELES  
Irregular

## Prayer of Confession

One: When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

**All: Forgive us, Lord.**

One: When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

**All: Have mercy on us, Gracious One.**

One: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others,

**All: Let your grace consume us, O God.**

One: When the wars around us are of no concern,

**All: Forgive us, Prince of Peace, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**

One: When our caring is not extended to action,

**All: Move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

One: We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

**All: Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

One: We come to adore you, little one. On bended knee, with hopeful heart, and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe. The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond, and in that place of falling into joy we yield all that we are to you. We pray for those who are broken, those who seek, the trembling and the rumbling tummies, the haggard spirits and the ragged lives, for those who cling to the last best thing, and those whose hearts pine for love.

**All: Bless us, O Lord, whom we adore, and turn our lives ever toward you. For peace, for mercy, for the sake of all that is holy, with hearts full and hearts longing, we come to adore you, O Christ.**

## **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**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 5

## **\*Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 52:7-10 and John 1:1-5

Nancy Bowman

\*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

The Piano Man's Christmas

*A Christmas Story written by the Rev. Dr. Ira Williams (1986)*

*Newly Illustrated by Bill Castello*

## **Hymn**

*Away in a Manger*

Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 6

# HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Setting by Robert J. Powell

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing,  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored;  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!



“Glo - ry to the new - born King! Peace on earth and  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -  
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no



of the skies; with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim,  
De - i - ty, pleased as man with us to dwell,  
more may die, born to raise us from the earth,



“Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!” Hark! The her - ald  
Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el. Hark! The her - ald  
born to give us sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald



an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”  
an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”  
an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

## Away in a Manger



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed,  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

Text: St. 1-2, anonymous, st. 3, John T. McFarland, 1851-1913  
Tune: MUELLER, 11 11 11 11; James R. Murray, 1841-1905; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

*~ 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 7)

## 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**

## Prayer Response

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;**

**The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

## 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

Based on *The First Noel*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures  
here below. Praise God above ye Heavenly host. Praise Father, Son  
and Holy Ghost. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel.  
Amen.***

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**One:** God of goodness and kindness, whose mercy is from  
everlasting to everlasting,

**All:** All that we have are gifts of your grace.

**One:** As the heavenly host sang of your glory,

**All:** Accept what we bring as offerings of praise.

**One:** With the shepherds we have witnessed the birth of our  
Savior

**All:** Our response is gratitude for the hope of new life we receive  
in Christ Jesus. Amen



# ~ We Serve ~

\*Hymn

*Joy to the World*  
Verses 1,2, and 4

CHRISTMAS

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## Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
(1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

(1) and  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

MUSIC: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

ANTIOCH

C.M.Repeats

## \*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

## Postlude

*Hymn Concerto on Joy to the World*  
G.F. Handel/arr. Douglas J. Benton

*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, 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, Barbara and Jeff Seeds, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Eleanor Smith 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.

## Attendance - December 18

Onsite - 8:15 - 38 10:45 - 68 Total Onsite - 106 Online - 35

## Serving in Worship Leadership

### December 25

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

Worship Tech 10:45 - Bill Castello

### January 1

Ushers 10:45 - Wayne Lichtenwalner, Pete Mohr

Worship Tech 10:45 - Bill Castello

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

DECEMBER 2022

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	18,235.89
Overall Percent	81.0%

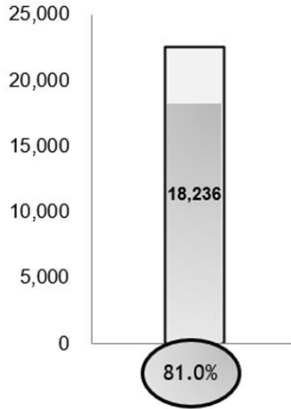
Last Week	
Start:	12/18/22
End:	12/24/22
Total:	4,326.35

Amt need to reach Target

DECEMBER 2022	4,264.11
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### Progress

Overall Target  
 Overall Total



## YTD OFFERINGS

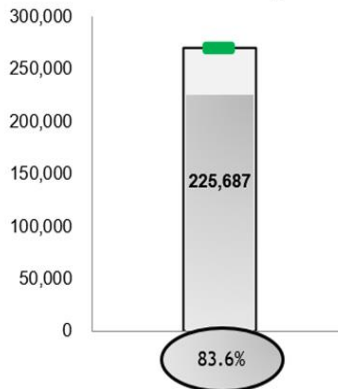
DECEMBER 2022

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	270,000.00
Overall Total	225,686.78
Overall Percent	83.6%



### Progress

Overall Target  
 Overall Total  
 On Track Target



## Church Calendar for the Week of Dec 25, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Sun., 12/25	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon., 12/26		Office Closed
Tues., 12/27		Office Closed
Sun., 1/1	10:45 am	Worship Service

## 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. The offering will continue to the end of the month.

## 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).

## OUR STAFF

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