

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

**December 4, 2022
8:15 am & 10:45 am**

The Second Sunday in Advent

PEACE

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

Every Valley
Patti Drennan

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

***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 Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13)

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch
shall spring from roots.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise!

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor;
with righteousness around his waist.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise!

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place;
with wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Let all the people give God praise!

***Opening Hymn #104**

We Hail You God's Anointed

Verses 1 and 2

Lighting of Advent Wreath (8:15) Tom, Kay and Fortress Chryst

(10:45) Brian and Bonnie Strauss

Conner and Carson

The Candle of Peace

One: Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

All: Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

One: Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

All: Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

One: Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

All: Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

One: Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

All: Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

One: Today we light two candles — the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through God's grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread that peace out into the world.

Sung Response

A Candle is Burning

(Set to *Away in a Manger*)

**A candle is burning, a candle of Peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.**

**For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Prayer of Confession

Written by Rev. Gilbert C. Nisbet

All: O come, o come, Emmanuel!

One: Come to our world with its cruelty and hatred; its division and distrust; its greed and its selfishness. Come with your gentleness, to ease the pain of enmity. Come with Your forgiveness, to dispel dissension and restore harmony. Come with Your humility, to cure the error of pride and self-centredness. Come with Your peace to transform the world into Your Kingdom.

All: O come, o come, thou Lord of might!

One: Come to those who act violently and quell their anger. Come to those who oppress the weak and establish kindness. Come to those who revel in their powerfulness and remind them of the power of love. Come with Your grace to establish Your Kingdom in the hearts of all.

All: O come, thou Rod of Jesse!

One: Come to our nation and bless us with peace and prosperity. Come to the lost and the least and the lonely in our land and let them know that they are valued and loved by you. Come to those who have lost any sense of their worth and surround them with your love. Come to those experiencing homelessness, those feeling forsaken, the poor in spirit and the disturbed in heart bringing your peace.

All: O come, o come, Emmanuel!

One: And now hear us as we share with You in a moment of silence the personal and private prayers of our hearts, for ourselves and for those known to us.

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

One: God is the Almighty and Eternal, the God of all times and places, of all peoples and all ages who brings us hope and peace as we walk with God.

All: Thanks be to God! 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!

(10:45) Hymn

Prepare the Way!
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 5

***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3:1-3, 11
(8:15) Sharon Antrim
(10:45) Linda Powell

*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 Peace

(8:15) Hymn

Prepare the Way!
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 5

PREPARE THE WAY

David Gambrell

CAROL
Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900



1. "Pre - pare the way!" the proph - et called; a
2. "Pre - pare the way!" cried John to all be -
3. Pre - pare the way in us, O Lord, to



mes - sen - ger will come to re - af - firm God's
side the Jor - dan stream. All flesh will see God's
great that glo - rious day when right - eous - ness and



cov - e - nant and lead the peo - ple home.
sav - ing work, the proph - ets' an - cient dream.
peace will reign and death will pass a - way.



The truth will shine like pur - est fire in
The val - leys and the moun - tain - tops will
The ris - en one will come a - gain, de -



that a - wait - ed hour. Come, Je - sus Christ! You
make a lev - el place. Come, Je - sus Christ! You
scend - ing from a - bove. Come, Je - sus Christ! You



are the way; re - new us with your pow'r.
are the way; re - store us with your grace.
are the way; re - deem us with your love.

~ 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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2022.

We Are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an "open communion." ALL persons are welcome to receive the gifts of God's grace and love with us at the table.

In the UCC, ALL means ALL!

The Invitation to Receive

One: In this season of expectant waiting, we are invited to Christ's table here and now. Coming to Christ's table is a way to experience the grace of God. Therefore it is open to all. Come with a sincere heart, with nothing standing in your way. So we come as a people, with all our siblings in faith, assured of God's perfect love.

All: We thank God for this table of peace.

Words of Institution and Consecration Responses on Screen

Sung Response

Emmanuel

Words and Music by Bob McGee

$\text{♩} = 80$

Em-man - u - el_____ Em-man - u - el_____ His name is called_____

7

— Em-man - u - el_____ God with us_____ Re-vealed in us_____ his name is

14

called_____ Em - man - u - el

Sharing the Meal

As the minister directs, all are welcome to come using the center aisle to any of the stations to receive the gifts of communion. If you are unable to come forward, servers will bring the elements to you.

Eat and drink upon receiving at the station and dispose of your cup at the side, then please return to your seats by the side aisles.

Music During the Sharing of the Meal

Lullaby, Jesus
Gilbert M. Martin

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Having poured out your Spirit on us in these gifts, now make us a Christmas people, at peace with what has come, and with hope for what is yet to be. Keep us vigilant in our Advent waiting until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. 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: We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the building up of the beloved community.

All: **Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a signal to the people that we worship God, who saves, heals, and sets us free. Amen.**

~ We Serve ~

*Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Hymn found on page 9

Verses 1 and 2

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Final Verse on Venez Divin Messie
Ralph Jusko

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.

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry 391

D Bm A D G D G A D G D Em7 D

1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make straight the
 3 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us

A D G D A Bm E7 A7 D

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 rise to fall no more; O let your face up -

G D Em A D A7 D G A D

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

Altar Flowers

Two vases today in memory of Marguerite B. Oswald's birthday, by the Gilbert family.

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, 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.

Attendance - November 27

Onsite - 8:15 - 46 10:45 - 60 Total Onsite - 106 Online - 33

Serving in Worship Leadership

December 4

Ushers 8:15 - Janet Ebert, Margaret Young, Amy Fiedler & Cindy Reck

10:45 - DonnaLee Yeatts, Wayne Lichtenwalner, Brian Fisher & Tom Moyer

Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello

10:45 - Bill Castello & Elijah Fox

December 11

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

10:45 - Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

Worship Tech 8:15 - Jesus Pagan

10:45 - Michelle Gutekunst

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 2022

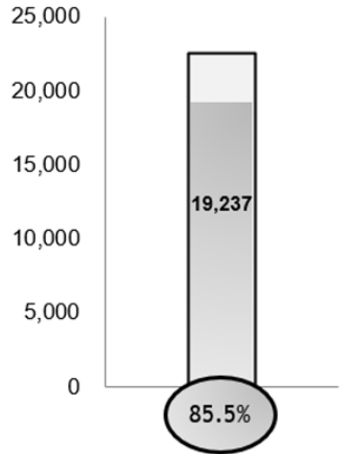
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	19,236.52
Overall Percent	85.5%

Last Week	
Start:	11/27/22
End:	12/3/22
Total:	3,005.38

<i>Amt need to reach Target</i>	
NOVEMBER 2022	3,263.48

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

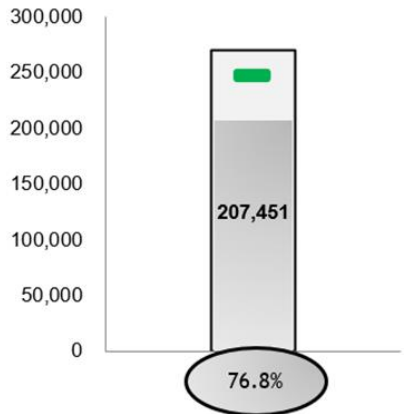
NOVEMBER 2022

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	247,500.00
Overall Total	207,450.89
Overall Percent	76.8%



Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



BASKET SOCIAL

The Basket Social is in Fox Hall today until 1pm! Food will be available. Get your tickets in and hope to win a basket!

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.**

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 the 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.

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 were 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.

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

The Crafters Group will have items for sale in the lounge area before and after both worship services on 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 craszler@aol.com to make any purchases.

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 to make your purchase.

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.

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.

Church Calendar for the Week of Dec 4 - Dec 11, 2022

Sun, 12/4	8-1:00 pm	Basket Social
	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon, 12/5	10:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation Choir
Tues, 12/6	9:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance Committee
Wed, 12/7	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARs
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs, 12/8	7:00 pm	Worship and Music Committee
Sat, 12/10	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 12/11	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
		Newsletter Deadline

OUR STAFF

Rev. Steve Davis sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org	Senior Pastor
Patrick Sandt sjfmusic@sjuccf.org	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
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