

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!*

March 5, 2023
8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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

*Healer of our Every Ill
M. Haugen*

8:15AM Soloist: Joy Gravely

10:45AM Chancel Choir

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

~ Soup & Bread Dinner Sign Up Sheet in the Parlor

~ Egg Hunt Sign Up Sheets – Your help is needed!

~ St. Patrick's Day GIFT CARD BINGO, March 17 6pm Open, 7pm BINGO

~ Ministry Area Information Posters – Lady PEEPS, Healthcare Ministry

~ Sunday Morning Social Hour in Fox Hall

~ Daylight Savings – Spring Forward next Sunday, March 12

***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 Worship Ways

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called
Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to
be revealed.

**All: “Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place
one foot in front of the other to trust God with the
unknown.**

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into
the teachings of God for the journey set before him.
Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life
born anew.

All: “Go towards,” God says, and a new life awaits us.
We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.

One: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

All: **Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.**

***Opening Hymn**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
 Verses 1 and 2

LENT

In the Cross of Christ I Glory 264

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering o'er the wrecks of time;
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de - ceive and fears an - noy,
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and love up - on my way,
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and pleas - ure, by the cross are sanc - ti - fied;

all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
 from the cross the ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 peace is there that knows no meas - ure, joys that thro' all time a - bide.

Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey.

All: **May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace for restoring us to hope everlasting. Amen.**

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear, and mistakes made. God's unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and whose weary journey brings tears. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength.

All: **God has not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We welcome God's healing and salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(10:45) Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Healer of our Every Ill

Verses 1 and 2

Hymn on page 4 of bulletin

Healer of Our Every Ill

2213

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,

Fine

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



grace us with your peace and glad - ness;
 how your grace is still un - fold - ing,
 ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery broth - er;
 teach us all your way of heal - ing;

D.C.

Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts. _____
 give us all your vi - sion, God of love. _____
 Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide. _____
 Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart. _____

WORDS: Marty Haugen

MUSIC: Marty Haugen

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HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

88.63 with Refrain

Scripture Reading*John 3: 11-17**

(8:15) Sharon Antrim

(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. Davis

Faithful Questions: How Can I Be Born Anew?

(8:15) Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill

Verses 1 and 2

Hymn on page 4 of bulletin

(10:45) Anthem

God So Loved the World

John Strainer; Arranged by B. Harlan

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of many names, Comforter, Healer, our Way, Truth and Life, 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 love and grace 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**

Prayer Response

Mercy O God

Hymn on page 6 of bulletin

MERCY, O GOD

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Mer-cy, O God, have mer-cy on us.

Send down your mer-cy to set us free.

Mer-cy, O God, have mer-cy on us.

Send down your mer-cy to set us free.

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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 2023.

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: The Eucharist, is not simply a symbolic expansion of the moral circle. The Lord’s Supper becomes a profoundly subversive event in the lives of the participants. The sacrament brings real people, divided in the larger world, into a sweaty, intimate, flesh and blood embrace where there shall be no difference between them and the rest. ~ Richard Beck, “*Unclean*”

All: **We gather at this table, grateful for the invitation in God’s love and gift of being made new in Christ’s offering for us. We are set free as we come and receive from Christ.**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sung Response

Let Us Be Bread

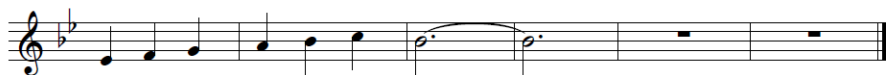
Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro - ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

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, returning to your seats by the side aisles.

Music During Communion

Ah Holy Jesus

Arr. by Mary McDonald

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of amazing compassion, lover of your wayward people, you bring to rebirth a pilgrim people, and call us to be a blessing for ourselves and all the world. We pray for grace to take your generous gift and step with courage on this holy Lenten path, confident in the radiant life that is your plan for us, made known and given to us all in Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

A Lenten Doxology

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ
Into our hearts. Amen**

WORDS: G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100TH
LM

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.uncworship.org>.

*Prayer of Dedication

From UCC Worship Ways

One: O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing.

All: Through us and our gifts, may it be so, in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

~ We Serve ~

*Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Verses 1 and 2

Found on page 9 of bulletin

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

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.

255 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand—
 2 Up - on that cross of Je - sus my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y Rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face,

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my smit - ten heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness,
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

WORDS: Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869), alt.
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927)

ST. CHRISTOPHER
 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Sharon Antrim, Richard Baatz, Clarence Biehn, Carl Case, Sandra Diefenderfer, Robert and Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Gary Hallman, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Adrienne Kiesbar, Jean Litzenberger, Betty Millham, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Timothy Ott, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Eleanor Smith, Nancy Weaver and Margaret Young.

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.

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 5

Ushers 8:15 – Janet Ebert, Sharon Antrim, Wayne Lichtenwalner
& Bill Fink

10:45 – DonnaLee Yeatts, Pete Mohr, Amy Fiedler,
& Wendy Fox

Worship Tech 8:15 Bill Castello & Elijah Fox
10:45 – Jesus Pagan

March 12

Ushers 8:15 – Karen Stoitsits & Carole O'Connell

10:45 – Roger Knauss, Brian Fisher & Kayleigh Fisher

Worship Tech 8:15 & 10:45 – Bill Castello

Altar Flowers

1 vase in memory of Ron Muth by Noreen Muth

2 vases in loving memory of my parents, Betty and Arlington Blose's
wedding anniversary on March 1, 1952 by daughter Sandy Koch

Attendance – February 26

Onsite - 8:15 – 37 10:45 – 61 Online – 25

Lenten Soup & Bread Supper and Program - 24

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.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER

If the church has to cancel its Sunday services due to inclement weather, we will list the closing on Channel 69 News or you can go to their website at www.wfmz.com.

GIFT CARD BINGO IS COMING SOON!

FRIDAY, MARCH 17!

There are many opportunities to help make this event a success. Please consider buying tickets for you and your friends. You will have a great time that evening.

Also consider donating:

- An item for our “Tricky Tray” table. These should have a value of \$20 to \$30. They can be baskets, or gift cards, or any idea you may have.
- Sponsor one of our Bingo games by donating \$50 for the gift card for that game.

The kitchen is looking for:

- Hot dogs and/or rolls
- 2lbs of hamburger BBQ. We will put it all together that evening, to make the best BBQ ever.
- Cans of sodas. We need Coca Cola, Sprite, Root Beer in regular, caffeine-free, diet, or diet caffeine-free. Feel free to donate a 6-pack or a carton. We have some regular Coca Cola for this night, the biggest need is for the other varieties.
- Baked goods to sell for hungry Bingo players.

PLEASE CONTACT TOM MOYER OR THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS, AND, AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

A massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the region on February 6, claiming over 41,000 deaths and tens of thousands of injuries. UCC National issued an urgent appeal to help our global partners with emergency relief and long-term recovery. You can help by contributing to St. John’s and specifying “Earthquake Relief.” Special offering envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge.

HAVE YOU SEEN--?

There are some things missing – has anyone seen them? A credit card reader from the office and a handbell table cover, maroon in color. If you remember seeing these anywhere, please let the office know!

COLLECTION OF EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

At the Annual Meeting, 13 baskets were given out to members to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, activity books or whatever else is going to make it an “eggstravagant” Easter basket. The baskets will be delivered by the Pinebrook Family Answers team to youth in the Lehigh Valley between the ages of 8-18 who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. Contact Emma Rarich at 610-462-6777 or email at ebfox@live.com if you have any questions. All baskets are due back in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 2**.

BASKET SOCIAL

Save these dates – **May 19 and May 20**, for a two-day Basket Social. Kenda is seeking items to fill baskets or monetary donations so she can go shopping for you. Any items that are donated should be NEW; we are not able to accept old or used items as this had been an issue in the past. (Sorry for any inconvenience.) Any questions please see Kenda or call 484 358 7453.

WE NEED YOUR SHOES!

Nothing to Buy, Nothing to Sell, Simply Clean Out Your Closet

We are collecting gently used or new shoes – all sizes, varieties, adults and children. St. John’s is partnering with Friedens UCC in Berks County to raise funds for a two-week Mission Trip to Peru to help rebuild houses. The goal is to collect 5,000 pounds of shoes, and for every pound we collect, \$.50 will be given back to sponsor the trip. The shoes are then refurbished and sent to Third World Countries. Please pair your shoes by tying the laces together or by using a rubber band. A collection basket is in the coatroom area by the sanctuary. Deadline to receive shoes is **Sunday, April 9**.

EASTER AND SPRING CRAFT SALE

Our Crafters Group has been busy. We have Easter items for sale – bunnies, chicks, and baskets plus a whole lot more. We also have available among other things, kitchen towels, table runners, bowl cozies, clothes pin bags, cookbooks and 12 bean soup mix. Look for our table in the lounge area on **Sundays, March 12 and March 19**, before and after each worship service. Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or at craszler@aol.com if you need any items delivered.

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Join us on **Sunday, March 26th** beginning at 2:00 PM for a very special music concert provided by the Moravian University College Choir under the direction of Ms. Paula Zerkle. Light refreshments will be served in Fox Hall immediately following the concert.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Donations needed for March: canned fruits, canned vegetables and canned sweet potatoes for the Easter meal distribution. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always welcomed. Contact Gary Black at 610-262-6114 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com if you would like to volunteer to help at the food pantry.

UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

As the war ravages on in Ukraine one year later, our help is still needed. The Russian invasion displaced 13 million people and left a trail of destruction and loss of life. Donations for March will go to UCC National. For your contributions to St. John's, please specify "Ukraine Relief Fund." Special offering envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge.

WHITEHALL-COPLAY HUNGER INITIATIVE'S COMMUNITY MEALS

WCHI and the Faith-based Community are providing free meals (dine-in only) to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households from 4:00 to 6:30 pm at the following locations:

Sunday, March 5 – Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church –
4331 Main St., Whitehall

Tuesday, March 21 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic
Church – 618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall.

UCC GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT RECOMMENDATION



After a year-long search, the United Church of Christ Board's Search Committee for General Minister and President has made a historic choice. The committee will be recommending Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the UCCB this week as nominee for General Minister and President. If elected, she would be the first woman, and the first woman of African descent, to lead the denomination. Go to ucc.org and click on Search Committee Recommends Thompson for GMP to read the letter to the wider church from Search Committee Chair, the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	18,642.43
Overall Percent	82.9%

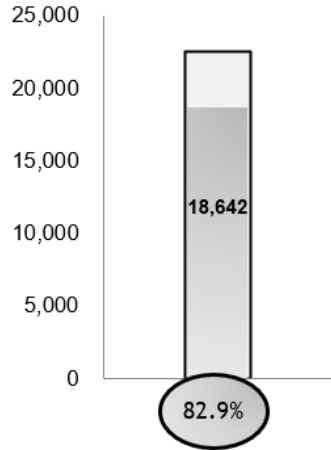
Last Week	
Start:	2/25/23
End:	3/3/23
Total:	3,742.00

Amt need to reach Target

FEBRUARY 2023	3,857.57
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

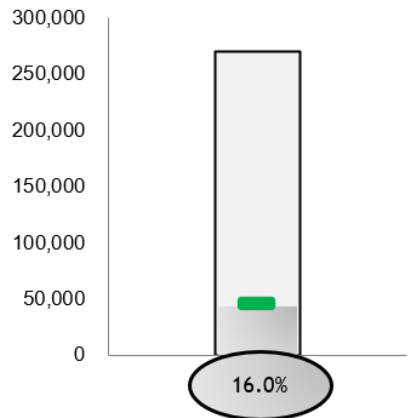
FEBRUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	43,200.71
Overall Percent	16.0%



Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of March 5 – March 12, 2023

Sun, 3/5	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon 3/6	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation Choir
Tues, 3/7	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
Wed, 3/8	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Conference Lenten Program
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/9	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Sat 3/11	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 3/12	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service Newsletter deadline

OUR STAFF

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