

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 19th, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
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 (10:45)

Lament-J. Krug

Bells of St. John's

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

~ Soup & Bread Dinner Sign Up Sheet in the Parlor

~ Furnace Loan Fund Offering – March 26

~ Moravian University Choir Concert—March 26 at 2pm

~ Ministry Area Information Posters – “Fun” Raising, Property Committee

~ Easter Egg Hunt – April 1, 10-1pm

~ Update from Consistory

***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

One: Kindred of God, a new vision of leadership is called forth and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the humble of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

All: In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest, smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised up to serve.

One: Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

All: In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.

One: God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or our earthly achievements.

All: In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing God looks upon the heart. Let us open our hearts to God this day. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

Verses 1 and 2

LENT

257 What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down; when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul!
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

WORDS: Appalachian folk hymn
MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

WONDROUS LOVE
12.9.12.12.9.

Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do. We look to the flashy fame, the grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace.

All: **Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that in our complacency which allows us to drift towards the same old ways of faith we may be transformed anew. Provide us with a new cup of oil that we may be anointed by your love so that we may set out into your world to bless and anoint others. In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new we pray. Amen.**

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Friends, receive the anointing of God's tender love and forgiveness this day. For God's care and compassion for you abides in your heart today and always.

All: **We rise and set out restored and renewed. 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!

Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill

Verses 1 and 4

Hymn on page 4 of bulletin

Healer of Our Every Ill

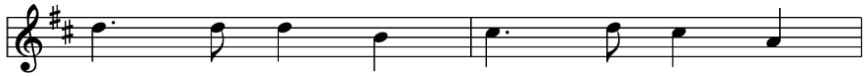
2213

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 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

(8:15) Connie Viglione

(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:
Where Is God in Life's Bad Stuff?

Special Music (8:15)

Bells of St. John's

Lament

J. Krug

Anthem (10:45)

Chancel Choir
Violinist: Regina Mohr

Remembering Home

O. Johnson

~ *We Love* ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of many names, Our Vision, Comforter, Healer, 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, grace and love 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

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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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.umcworship.org>.

***Prayer of Dedication**

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Generous God, you remind us that you “anoint our heads with oil” and that our “cup overflows” with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world.

All: **May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.**

~ We Serve ~

***Hymn:**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on Pg. 8 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.

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Serving in Worship Leadership

March 19

Ushers 8:15 – Karen Stoitsits & Charlotte Kerrigan

10:45 – Tom Moyer, Bobbi Pope & Bruce Pope

Worship Tech 8:15 – Michelle Gutekunst

10:45 – Bill Castello

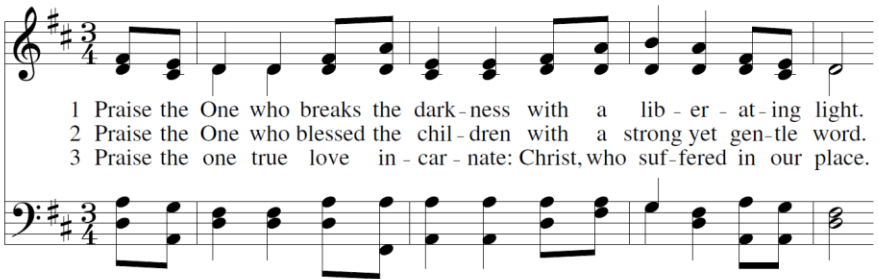
March 26

Ushers 8:15 – Kim Hillegass & Charlie Apple

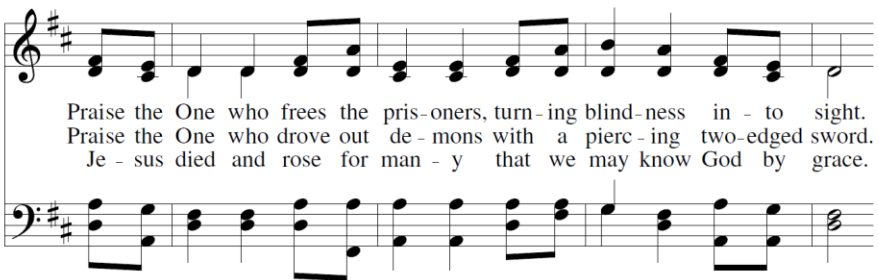
10:45 – Wayne Lichtenwalner & Pete Mohr

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

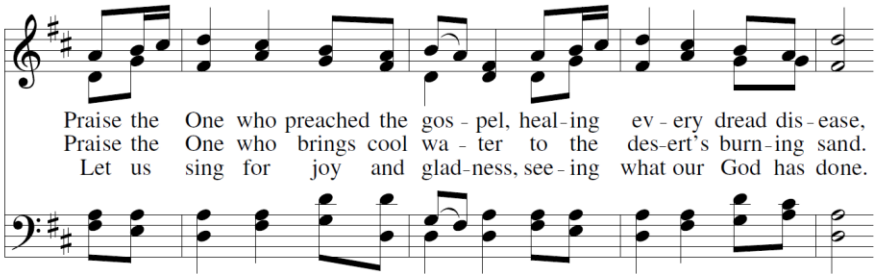
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



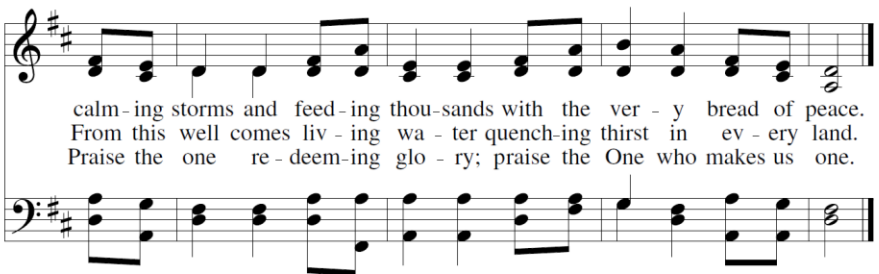
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pier - ing two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-)
 MUSIC: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813
 Words © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

NETTLETON
 8.7.8.7.D.

Today's Sponsorships

Two vases of altar flowers in celebration of the life of
Patricia (McGonigle) Taylor by sisters,
Eleanor O'Donnell and Jeannie McGonigle.

One vase of altar flowers in memory of beloved wife, Nancy
by Ron Eichman

Bulletins in memory of Flora Geissinger by Paul E. Geissinger, Jr.

Attendance – March 12

Onsite - 8:15 – 40 10:45 – 106 Online - 24

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, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Gary Hallman, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Adrienne Kiesbar, Jean Litzenberger, Betty Millham, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Timothy Ott, Brenda Pascoe, Joey, Carol and Paul 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.

Did you know...? You can sponsor Sunday bulletins as well as altar flowers. Cost is \$20 for bulletins, \$25 for flowers, \$15 for the wheat basket; the monthly newsletter can be sponsored for \$100.

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-COPLAY HUNGER INITIATIVE'S COMMUNITY MEALS

WCHI and the Faith-based Community are providing a free meal (dine-in only) to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households from 4:00 to 6:30 pm on **Tuesday, March 21** at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall.

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 today, before and after each worship service. Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or at craszler@aol.com if you need any items delivered.

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 **April 1 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.

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 "eggstravagan" 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.**

BLOOD DRIVE

St John's Blood Drive, **April 16, 2023**, 8:30-1:30. Openings still available. Please contact Sharon Antrim 610-216-6207 to make your appointment.

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**.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY! - SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. Inspired by the protests of the 1960s, he hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight. The holiday is now a global celebration. Nelson authored legislation to create a national hiking trails system as well as the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail System. He also sponsored several key pieces of environmental legislation, including the Wilderness Act. To learn more about Earth Day, how you can help, or donate, go to earthday.org.

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.

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.

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.

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, March 28**.

IRONPIGS GAME – ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand for the IronPigs vs Buffalo Bisons game. Game day is Tuesday, August 1, at 7:05 pm. Cost will be \$13 per person which will include a ticket to the game, \$2 ballpark credit and raffle ticket. While it is too early to know of any giveaways, we know that hotdogs will again be \$1. So, mark your calendar – we are now taking reservations and payment must be made in advance. (Checks are payable to St. John's.) For more information and reservations, please contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com. Deadline for reservations is **Sunday, June 18**.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MARCH 2023

<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,287.37
Overall Percent	63.5%

<i>Last Week</i>	
Start:	3/12/23
End:	3/18/23
Total:	8,874.00

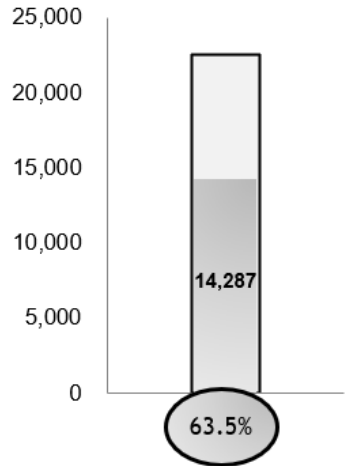
Amt need to reach Target

MARCH 2023	8,212.63
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Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2023

<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	57,488.08
Overall Percent	21.3%

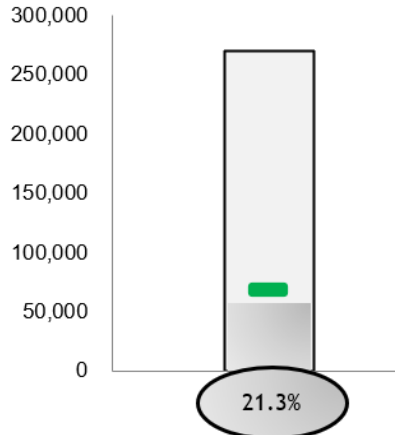


Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total

■ On Track Target



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!

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.

Church Calendar for the Week of March 19 – March 26, 2023

Sun, 3/19	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon 3/20	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
Tues, 3/21	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Retired Clergy
	6:30 pm	Lady PEEPS
Wed, 3/22	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/23	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri, 3/24	7:00 pm	Gift Card Bingo Snow Date
Sat, 3/25	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 3/26	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
	2:00 pm	Moravian University Choir Concert

OUR STAFF

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