

# 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!*

**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:15 am & 10:45 am**

**Baptism of the Lord**

# *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**

*River in Judea*

L. Spevack

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

~ Prepare some water for renewal

~ February 5, Annual Meeting with Potluck Lunch at noon in Fox Hall

**\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**\*Call to Worship**

Written by Caela Wood

Past Pastor at First Congregational UCC, Manhattan, KS

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

**All: Jesus emerges from the water.**

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse,

**All: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am  
well-pleased."**

One: Jesus is named. Claimed.

**All: We come to the water. We remember we are named.  
Claimed.**

One: Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.


**All: Let us worship the one who names and claims us  
still.**

**\*Opening Hymn**


*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Verses 1 and 2


## 243 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise




1 Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to you we raise;  
 2 God re-vealed at Jor-dan's stream, proph-et, priest and king su-preme;  
 3 God re-vealed in val-iant fight, con-quer-ing the dev-il's might;  
 4 Stars shall fall and heav-ens fade, sun and moon shall dark be made;



once re-vealed, when heav-en's star brought the wise men from a - far;  
 once re-vealed in power di - vine chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 sins for - giv - en, sick-ness healed, life re - stored and God re - vealed;  
 Christ will then like light-ning shine, all will see the glo - rious sign;



branch of roy - al Da-vid's stem in your birth at Beth - le - hem,  
 Ca - na's ho - ly wed-ding guest keep - ing to the last the best;  
 once re-vealed in gra-cious will ev - er bring-ing good from ill,  
 all will then the trum-pet hear, all will see the Son ap - pear,



Word be - fore the world be - gan, God re-vealed to us in man.

WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); rev. Jubilate Hymns, 1982  
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR  
 7.7.7.7.D.

Words Rev. © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

## **Prayer of Confession**

*from Worship Ways*

One: When we lose touch with our own flourishing,

**All: Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

One: When we lose touch with the celebrations and struggles of our neighbors,

**All: Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

One: When we lose touch with our collective liberation,

**All: Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## **Words of Assurance**

*from Worship Ways*

One: Thrill and rejoice, people of God: God's grace and love meet us at every turn, no matter where our journeys lead.

**All: Praise God who gives us each the chance to be epiphanies of redeeming love and liberating justice. Thanks be to God, 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) Special Music**

*Come to the Water*

J. Foley/Arr. By J. Schrader

*Chancel Choir*

## **\*Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3:13-17

(8:15) Janet Ebert

(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.**

When Our Actions Create Transformation

**Celebration of Baptism Renewal**

*from Worship Ways*

**Invitation**

The Body of Christ continues to be renewed and refreshed. As members, we belong to the baptized and covenantal life in Christ. We gather today to affirm our faith and renew our commitments as followers of Jesus.

**Affirmation of Faith**

*(Adapted from a Reading from the Second National Meeting of United Church of Christ Women)*

One: O God, because you are the source of all life  
and love and being,

**All: We call you Creator.**

One: Because we know the history of your presence among  
your covenanted people and honor their tradition,

**All: We call you Lord.**

One: Because our Savior, Jesus Christ, your obedient child,  
knew you intimately and spoke of you so,

**All: We call you Father.**

One: Because you are present in each act of birth and  
because you shelter, nurture and care for us,

**All: We call you Mother.**

One: Because you hold us up and give us strength and  
courage when we are weak and in need,

**All: We call you Sustainer.**

One: Because we have known you in our pain and suffering,

**All: We call you Comforter.**

One: Because beyond pain lies your promise of all things  
made new,

**All: We call you Hope.**

One: Because you are the means of liberation and the way to  
freedom,

**All: We call you Deliverer.**

One: Because you have chosen to come among us and share our common lot, making the hard choices, suffering and dying; because you rose victorious, bringing new life,

**All: We call you Redeemer.**

**Confident that you will hear, we call upon you with all the names that make you real to us, the names which create an image in our minds and hearts, an image which our souls can understand and touch. And yet we know that you are more than all of these. Blessing and power, glory and honor be unto you, our God, Amen.**

### **Personal Reaffirmation of Robin Christina Brensinger**

One: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**All: We celebrate your decision with joy into the common life of this church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### **Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant**

One: Do you believe in the One of Many Names, God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit?

**All: We believe in the God of Many Names.**

One: Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

One: Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

One: Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

### **Action of Renewal**

*You are invited to receive the mark of baptism. As you come forward to mark yourself or to receive the mark of baptism, come to one of the stations for self-marking or to the center to be marked by the pastor. Those worshipping remotely, please use your water at this time.*

One: John the Baptist told his disciples that he baptized them with water but the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

**All: As we receive the mark of our renewed baptismal vows, we recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit within us and among us.**

**{For self-marking}** *Please dip your finger in the water, make the sign of the cross on your forehead repeating these words: I am God's beloved. I am baptized.*

**{For officiant marking}**

You are God's beloved. You are baptized.

### **Hymn #351**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

### **Prayer for the Renewed in Baptism**

One: Holy Voice, Body, Spirit, we give thanks for the gathering of your people into a beloved community of belonging.

**All: By our baptism, we accept the invitation to publicly and faithfully witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments in that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word. May it be so. Amen.**

# ~ 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...

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**

## **Prayer Response**

*We Shall Overcome*

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome**

**We shall overcome someday.**

**Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,**

**We shall overcome someday.**

## **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*  
*Melody: O Waly, Waly*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above you heavenly hosts,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**As forgiven and loved people of God, we offer ourselves and  
our gifts for a world in need. As God provides, we  
dedicate our lives to share God's provision. Amen**

*~ We Serve ~*

**\*Hymn**

*The Church is One Foundation*  
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 9

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**Postlude**

*Variation on Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
M. Miller

*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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## 544 The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's one founda - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,  
 4 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion, by wa - ter and the word:  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed:  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more,  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won:

from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

WORDS: Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)  
 MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

AURELIA  
 7.6.7.6.D.

## **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, Jinny Hess, Ted Hess, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Adrienne Kiesbar, Jean Litzenberger, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, 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.

**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 – January 8**

Onsite - 8:15 – 46 10:45 - 65 Online - 23

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

#### **January 15**

Ushers 8:15 – Susan Rarich & Sharon Antrim

10:45 – Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

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

#### **January 22**

Ushers 8:15 – Colleen Kulhamer & Karen Stoitsits

10:45 – Roger Knauss, Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

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

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	10,279.30
Overall Percent	45.7%

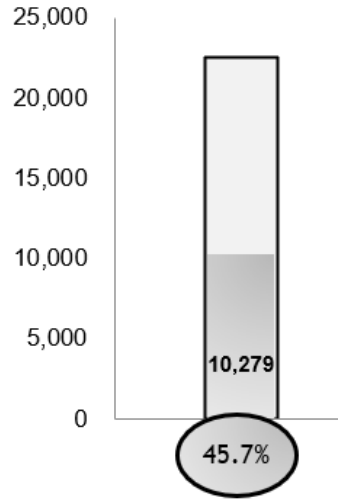
Last Week	
Start:	1/8/23
End:	1/14/23
Total:	5,437.00

<i>Amt need to reach Target</i>	
JANUARY 2023	12,220.70

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



## YTD OFFERINGS

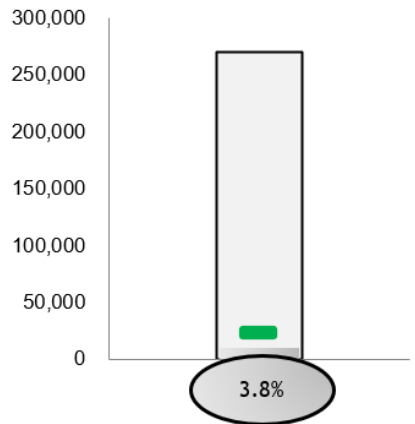
JANUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	10,279.30
Overall Percent	3.8%



### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## **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 **February 4 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).

## **UKRAINE RELIEF FUND - THE NEED CONTINUES**

Help is urgently needed as harsh winter conditions have arrived in Ukraine. With no end in sight to the war and cruel attacks on civilians and healthcare workers continuing, the situation becomes increasingly dire. The long, hard, cold winter creates an alarming new challenge in keeping internally displaced people safe. Nearly a quarter of them don't have safe housing for the winter, including a lack of power, electricity and heat. This could be deadly as temperatures rapidly decline.

Your donations will help undergird an expanding spectrum of services, such as food, shelter, medical care, WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene), spiritual and psychological care, protection and more in Ukraine and in countries where Ukrainians were forced to relocate. For the month of January, contributions will be sent to UCC National to support programs to help with Ukraine's infrastructure and other needs of the Ukrainian people. 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. We are happy to report that for the month of November, \$100 was sent to Project HOPE to help with the people's medical needs.

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

Donations needed for January: pancake mix, syrup, jelly and peanut butter. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are also welcomed. Special offering envelopes are available; you can also make a contribution via text or online.

## **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, January 24.**

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

This year's annual meeting will be held on February 5, 2023 at noon, following morning worship with a potluck meal in Fox Hall. We will feature a Ministry Fair to bring you up to date on all the ministries of St. John's as well as our business. Beginning January 22, the Annual Report can be found at <https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/>. Print copies will be available on January 22.

## **Church Calendar for the Week of Jan 15 - Jan 22, 2023**

Sun, 1/15	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon 1/16		Office Closed
Tues, 1/17	9:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed, 1/18	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
Thurs, 1/19	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Sat, 1/21	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 1/22	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service

## **OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis <a href="mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org">sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org</a>	Senior Pastor
Patrick Sandt <a href="mailto:sjfmusic@sjucf.org">sjfmusic@sjucf.org</a>	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
Alison Berger Boor <a href="mailto:sjfofficesecretary@sjucf.org">sjfofficesecretary@sjucf.org</a>	Office Administrator
Sue Weldner <a href="mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com">sbweldner@gmail.com</a>	Treasurer
Thomas and Emilie Moyer <a href="mailto:tommoyer54@gmail.com">tommoyer54@gmail.com</a>	Financial Secretary
Michelle Gutekunst <a href="mailto:sjfstars@sjucf.org">sjfstars@sjucf.org</a> <a href="mailto:sjfcustodians@sjucf.org">sjfcustodians@sjucf.org</a>	Worship Tech & Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner <a href="mailto:rczekner11@aol.com">rczekner11@aol.com</a>	Custodian
Christina Bach <a href="mailto:iron1@verizon.net">iron1@verizon.net</a>	Custodian
<b>New Newsletter Articles email address!</b>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sjucf.org">newsletter@sjucf.org</a>