

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



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

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 19, 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 and Chimes**

Patrick Sandt

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Becca Stephens

~ Lent Begins, February 22, Ash Wednesday

Ash & Dash (8-9am, 4-5pm) with Rev. Cliff Herring

Soup & Bread Dinner and Worship (6pm meal, 7pm worship)

with Rev. Gary Barraco.

~ **Soup & Bread Dinner Sign Up Sheet in the Parlor**

~ Ministry Area Information Posters – Stewardship and Finance, Publication and Publicity

~ Sunday Morning Social Hour 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** *From Worship Ways* (Inspired by Psalm 99)

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Holy  
One.

**All: The Holy One is high on the mountain and exalted  
among the people.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Mighty  
One.

**All: The Mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and  
establishes equity.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the  
Everlasting God.

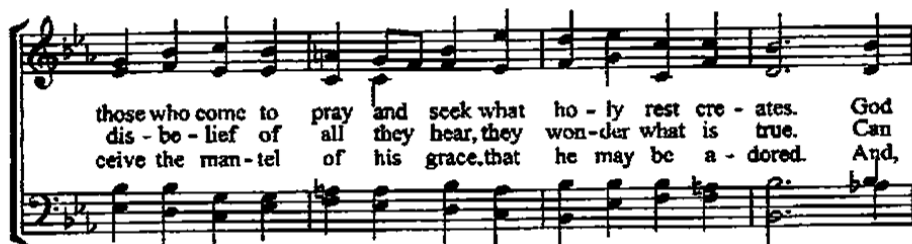
**All: The Everlasting God hears our cries and answers our  
call. Praise our God!**

# Come to the Mountain Peak

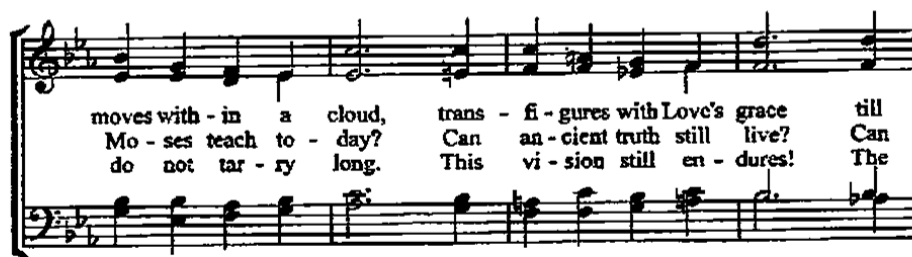
A Hymn for Transfiguration Sunday



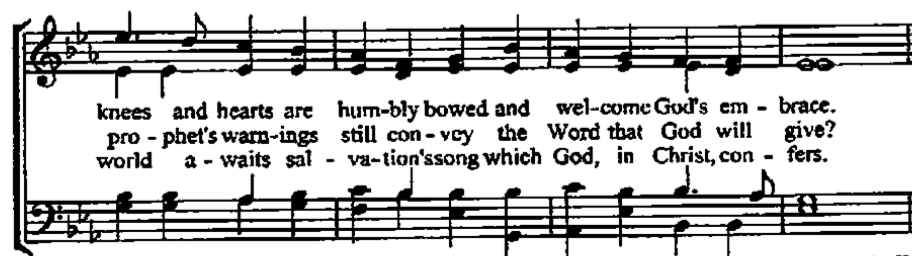
1. Come to the moun-tain peak. God pa-tient-ly a-waits all  
2. But some re-act in fear, not know-ing what to do. In  
3. Be-hold re-deemp-tion's face, be-lov-ed of the Lord! Re-



those who come to pray and seek what ho-ly rest cre-ates. God  
dis-be-lief of all they hear, they won-der what is true. Can  
ceive the man-tel of his grace, that he may be a-dored. And,



moves with-in a cloud, trans-fi-gures with Love's grace till  
Mo-ses teach to-day? Can an-cient truth still live? Can  
do not tar-ry long. This vi-sion still en-dures! The



knees and hearts are hum-bly bowed and wel-come God's em-brace.  
pro-phet's warn-ings still con-vey the Word that God will give?  
world a-waits sal-va-tion's song which God, in Christ, con-fers.

WORDS: F. Richard Garland, 2009 (Mk. 9:2-9)

MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA  
SMD

## Prayer of Confession

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**One:** Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life. We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort.

**All: Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**One:** Just as Jesus gifted his disciples with a moment of respite and awe, it is good for us to experience transcendent moments in the presence of God. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

**All: Amen**

## **(10:45) Children's Message**

Rev. Becca Stephens

**Mystery Bag returns next week!**

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

*Be Thou My Vision*

Verses 1, 2, and 4

(See page 4)

# Be Thou My Vision



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,  
Thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.  
High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.  
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931, versification by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935  
Tune: SLANE, 10 10 10 10; Irish melody

## \*Scripture Reading

## Matthew 17:1-9

(8:15) Janet Ebert

(10:45) Tyler Shankweiler

\*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. Becca Stephens

Following the Light

## Special Music

*Poor Wayfaring Stranger*

Arr. By John Leavitt

Jubilation Choir

~ *We Love* ~

## Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Becca Stephens

God of many names, Comforter, Healer, Strong Deliverer, Promised One, 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**

## 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**

*From UCC Worship Ways*

One: Generous God, may these gifts bring you glory and honor  
and meet the needs of your people.

All: **In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*~ We Serve ~*

**\*Hymn #182**

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*  
Verses 1 and 2

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Stephens

**Postlude**

Patrick Sandt

*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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**THANK YOU BECCA!**

Our Thanks to Rev. Becca Stephens for her leadership in this morning's worship service while Rev. Davis and Bill are in Texas visiting their new grandson, Jaxson, and family and Bill's mom, Sherry. We are grateful for all you do to share your gifts and love with the St. John's UCC, Fullerton family!

## **In Our Prayers**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: 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, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, 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.

### **Attendance – February 12**

Onsite - 8:15 – 40 10:45 – 64 Online - 37

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

#### **February 19**

Ushers 8:15 – Sharon Antrim & Karen Stoitsis

10:45 – Bruce Pope & Bobbi Pope

Worship Tech 8:15 & 10:45 – Elijah Fox

#### **February 22 (Ash Wednesday)**

Ushers – Wayne Lichtenwalner, Carole O'Connell

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox

#### **February 26**

Ushers 8:15 – Colleen Kulhamer & Kim Hillegass

10:45 – Gary Weaver

Worship Tech 8:15 & 10:45 – Jesus Pagan

**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](http://www.wfmz.com).



## **BINGO!**

Tickets are now on sale for the March 17th St. Patrick's Day Gift Card Bingo, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. See Tom Moyer, or stop by the office for tickets.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 "eggstragagant" 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](mailto:ebfox@live.com) if you have any questions. All baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, April 2.

## **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 **March 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).

## **MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR**

Join us on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2PM 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.

## **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!

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

Donations needed for February: spaghetti sauce, pasta and canned fruit. 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](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) if you would like to volunteer to help at the food pantry.

## **WAR IN UKRAINE – ONE YEAR LATER**

February 24 marks the first anniversary of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine. Thousands of people, including children, have been killed or injured. People have been displaced and families torn apart. Homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals have been destroyed or under constant missile attacks. Yet the resiliency and tenacity of the Ukrainian people never wavered. As the war ravages on, there is no end in sight. Our help is still needed. Donations in February will go to World Central Kitchen.

## **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, February 28.**

## **WHITEHALL-COPLAY HUNGER INITIATIVE**

WCHI and the Faith-based Community are providing free meals (dine-in only) to low-income Whitehall-Coplay households on Tuesday, February 21 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	11,671.65
Overall Percent	51.9%

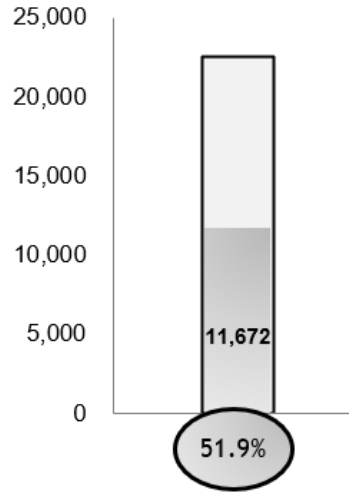
<i>Last Week</i>	
Start:	2/12/23
End:	2/18/23
Total:	5,315.00

*Amt need to reach Target*

FEBRUARY 2023	10,828.35
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### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



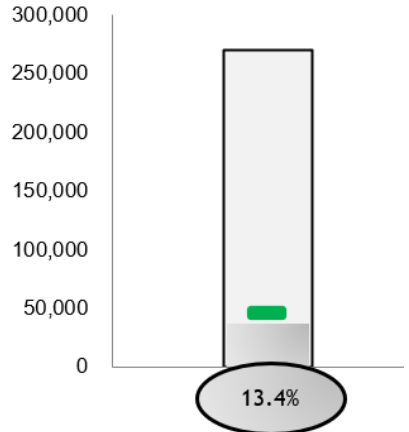
## YTD OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

<i>Overall</i>	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	36,229.93
Overall Percent	13.4%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## Church Calendar for the Week of Feb 19 – Feb 26, 2023

Sun, 2/19	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
Mon 2/20		Office Closed – President’s Day
	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation Choir
Tues, 2/21	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Retired Clergy Meeting
Wed, 2/22		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	8:00-9:00 am	Ash and Dash
	4:00-5:00 pm	Ash and Dash
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday service
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/23	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Sat 2/25	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 2/26	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service

### **OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
<a href="mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org">sjfsrpastor@sjucf.org</a>	
Patrick Sandt	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
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Alison Berger Boor	Office Administrator
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Sue Weldner	Treasurer
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<b>New Newsletter Articles email address!</b>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sjucf.org">newsletter@sjucf.org</a>