

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



## BEATITUDES

*Blessed are...*

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

**February 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**

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

~ Annual Meeting, February 5 at Noon, Fox Hall Potluck Meal

~ Special Gift from St. John's Children's Ministry, February 12

~ Rev. Becca Stephens preaching, February 19

~ 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.

### **\*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 Psalm 112: 1-10)*

One: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's presence!**

One: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's protection!**

One: Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's power!**

### Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,  
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



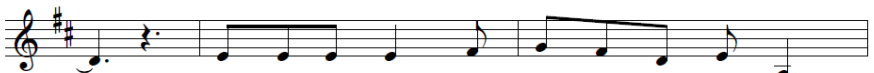
Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,  
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
 Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,  
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,  
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;  
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;  
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
 Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950  
 © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Prayer of Confession

*From UCC Worship Ways*

**One:** Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention—resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power.

**All:** **Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.**

*(Time for silent prayer)*

## Words of Assurance

*from Join the Movement*

**One:** Believing always in the grace of a loving God, we seek assurance for the times when we are not our best selves. People of God, hear the good news: God loves you even when you are not your best self.

**All:** **God loves me even when I am not my best self. I trust in God's grace, knowing I can be and do better. 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) Hymn

*This Day God Gives Me*

Verses 1 and 4

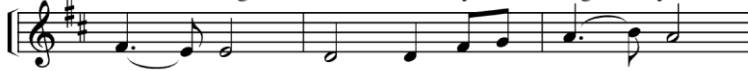
# THIS DAY GOD GIVES ME

James Quinn, SJ

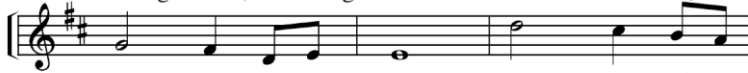
David Haas



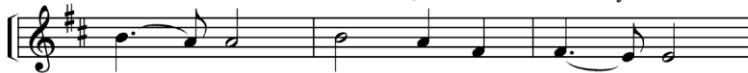
1. This day God gives me strength of high  
2. This day God sends me strength as my  
3. God's way is my way, God's shield is  
4. Ris - ing I thank you, Might - y and



heav - en, Sun and moon shin - ing,  
guar - dian, Might to up - hold me,  
round me, God's host de - fends me,  
strong One, King of cre - a - tion,



Flame in my hearth, Flash - ing of  
Wis - dom as guide. Your eyes are  
Sav - ing from ill. An - gels of  
Giv - er of rest, Firm - ly con -



light - ning, wind in its swift - ness,  
watch - ful, Your ears are lis - t ning,  
heav - en, Drive from me al - ways  
fess - ing God in three per - sons,



depths of the o - cean, firm - ness of earth.  
your lips are speak - ing, friend at my side.  
all that would harm me, stand by me still.  
One - ness of God - head, Tri - ni - ty blest.

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**\*Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 5: 1-12**

(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. Steven Davis

When Blessings Aren't Easy and Happy

**(8:15) Hymn**

*This Day God Gives Me*  
Verses 1 and 4

Hymn found on page 4 of bulletin

**(10:45) Special Music**

*I Choose Love*  
Mark Miller

Chancel Choir  
Soloist: Emily Szuter

*~ 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 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.**

## 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:** We come to this table as the people came to the hillside, hopeful and expectant, eager to receive from Jesus and be embraced in the heart of God’s love. We come, searching our hearts, that we might act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, hearing the words of Jesus calling us and teaching us from the beatitudes.

**All:** **We thank God for this table of love, promise and life. We look now in the light of the teaching of Jesus from the beatitudes.**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for there is the kingdom of heaven.**  
(Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**  
(Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**  
(Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.** (Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**  
(Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

(Silence / Pastor)

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

(Silence / Pastor)

## **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**

*Gift of Finest Wheat*  
Arr. By Kevin Keil



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Merciful Savior, dwell forever in our hearts. Inspire us with your purity, strengthen us with your might, perfect us in your ways, guide us in your truth, unite us to yourself and to your whole church by your holy mysteries, so that we may overcome evil and be wholly devoted to your justice and service, living in your will, all for the sake of your glory. 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*  
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*

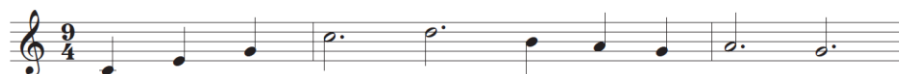
**God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gift as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.**

# ~ We Serve ~

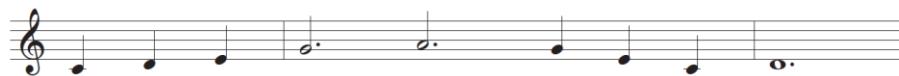
## \*Hymn

*Christ Be Beside Me*  
Verses 1 and 2

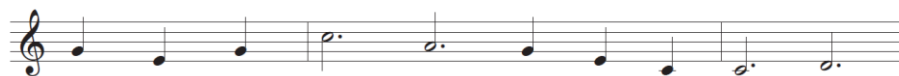
### Christ Be beside Me



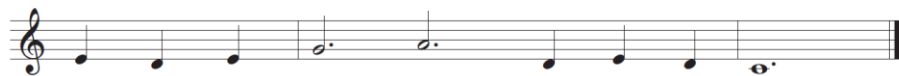
1. Christ be be - side me, Christ be be - fore me,  
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
3. Christ be in all hearts Think - ing a - bout me;



Christ be be - hind me, King of my heart.  
Christ all a - round me, Shield in the strife.  
Christ be on all tongues Tell - ing of me.



Christ be with - in me, Christ be be - low me,  
Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my sit - ting,  
Christ be the vis - ion In eyes that see me;



Christ be a - bove me, Nev - er to part.  
Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
In ears that hear me, Christ ev - er be.

Text: Ascribed to St. Patrick; James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, © 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP.  
Tune: BUNESSAN, 5 5 5 4 D; Gaelic melody

## \*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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## **In Our Prayers**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Richard Baatz, Clarence Biehn, Jim Carr, Carl Case, Sandra Diefenderfer, Marion DeMilio, Robert and Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Gary Hallman, 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 pray for Joy Gravely and family on the death of her father, Roy Luckenbill.

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.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

This year's annual meeting will be held today 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. Print copies of the Annual Report are available.

### **Attendance – January 22**

Onsite - 8:15 – 55    10:45 – 74    Online - 23

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

#### **February 5**

Ushers 8:15 – Connie Viglione, John Viglione, Kim Hillegass,  
Sharon Antrim and Bill Fink

10:45 – Pete Mohr, Tom Moyer, Margaret Young,  
Brian Fisher, Wayne Lichtenwalner and Amy Feidler

Worship Tech 8:15 – Michelle Gutekunst

10:45 – Jesus Pagan

#### **February 12**

Ushers 8:15 – Susan Rarich and Margaret Young

10:45 – Wendy Fox, Bob Czekner and Sharon Czekner

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

**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.

### **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.

### **HAVE YOU SEEN--?**

There are some things missing – has anyone seen them? A credit card reader from the office and bell choir tablecloths. If you remember seeing these anywhere, please let the office know!

### **WHITEHALL-COPLAY HUNGER INITIATIVE**

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

- Sun, Feb 5 St. Peter Roman Catholic Church
- Tues, Feb 21 Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church

### **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**.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	24,558.28
Overall Percent	109.1%

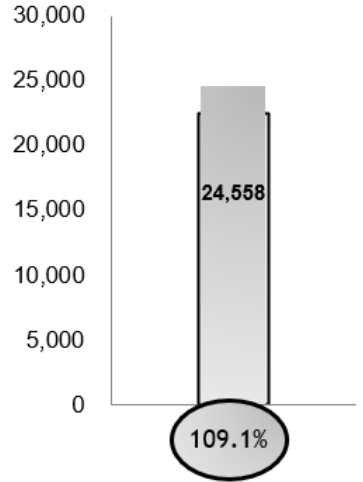
Last Week	
Start:	1/28/23
End:	2/3/23
Total:	3,200.25

*Amt need to reach Target*

JANUARY 2023	(2,058.28)
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### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



## YTD OFFERINGS

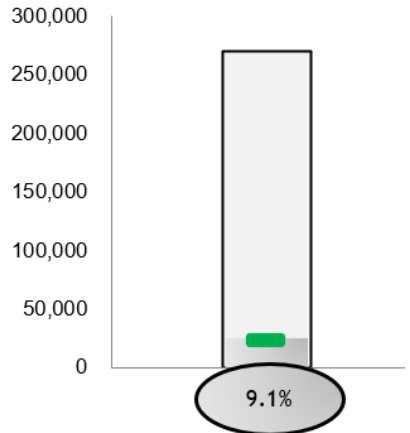
JANUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	24,558.28
Overall Percent	9.1%



### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Were you surprised when your latest offering envelopes arrived without your name or number on them? New and corrected envelopes are being sent from our supplier! If you have not received your new envelopes, please let the office know.

## 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.

### Church Calendar for the Week of Feb 5 – Feb 12, 2023

Sun, 2/5	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting/Potluck
Mon 2/6	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation Choir
Tues, 2/7	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Stewardship and Finance
	7:00 pm	Worship and Music
Wed, 2/8	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
Thurs 2/9	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Sat 2/11	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 2/12	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
		Newsletter deadline

## **OUR STAFF**

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
<a href="mailto:sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org">sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org</a>	
Patrick Sandt	Director of Music Ministries
<a href="mailto:sjfmusic@sjuccf.org">sjfmusic@sjuccf.org</a>	& Organist
Alison Berger Boor	Office Administrator
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Sue Weldner	Treasurer
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Thomas and Emilie Moyer	Financial Secretary
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<a href="mailto:sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org">sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org</a>	Coordinating Custodian
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Christina Bach	Custodian
<a href="mailto:iron1@verizon.net">iron1@verizon.net</a>	
<b>New Newsletter Articles email address!</b>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org">newsletter@sjuccf.org</a>