

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 12, 2023
Third 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 & Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

- ~ Soup & Bread Dinner Sign Up Sheet in the Parlor
- ~ Water Ritual Bottles for your vacation travels
- ~ Ministry Area Information Posters – Crafters, Personnel Committee
- ~ Moravian University Choir Concert — Sunday, March 26, 2pm
- ~ Sunday Morning Social Hour in Fox Hall
- ~ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering received Sunday, March 19

***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: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

**All: We come before you weary from traveling through
barren lands.**

One: Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

All: You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

One: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring
forth water.

**All: Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from
them like a spring.**

***Opening Hymn**

Near the Cross

Verses 1 and 2

479

Near the Cross

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F F/C C

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

F Bb F Bb/F F F/C C

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

F Gm/F F A7/E Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)
 MUSIC: William H. Doane (1832-1915)

NEAR THE CROSS
 7.6.7.6.Ref.

Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation.

All: **You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. We thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.**

(Time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

From UCC Worship Ways

One: New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good.

All: **Amen.**

(10:45) Sacrament of Baptism

Olivia Rae Weidner

Kevin, Kaitlyn and Lucas and family

Sponsors: Amanda Ambeagle, Marissa Lawall,

Matthew Lathrop, Antonio Pineda



Questions to the Parents and Godparents

Congregational Response

With God’s help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, Olivia Rae Weidner, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the

faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen

(10:45) Hymn #351

I Was There to Hear your Boring Cry
Verses 1 and 2

(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 3

Hymn on page 5 of bulletin

***Scripture Reading**

John 4: 5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

(8:15) Mike Gravely

(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. Davis

Faithful Questions: Who Is Jesus to Me?

Anthem

When the Poor Ones
José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano

Jubilation Choir

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

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of many names, Comforter, Healer, our Living Water, 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.

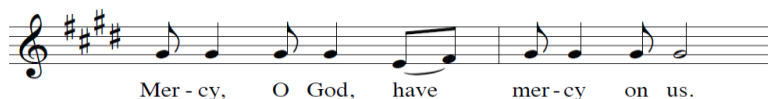
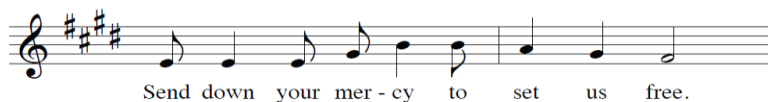
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Prayer Response

Mercy O God

MERCY, O GOD

Francis Patrick O'Brien



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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

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PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>.

*Prayer of Dedication

From UCC Worship Ways

One: Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we
give them. Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from
you.

All: **Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and
each other. Amen.**

~ We Serve ~

*Hymn #400

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Verses 1 and 2*

*The Benediction Postlude

Rev. Davis

*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: 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, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Timothy Ott, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Lucille Schneck, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Eleanor Smith, Nancy Weaver and Margaret Young.

We pray for the family of Susan Felegy, who died last Sunday, March 5.

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 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

March 19

Ushers 8:15 – Karen Stoitsits & Charlotte Kerrigan

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

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

Attendance – March 5

Onsite - 8:15 – 45 10:45 – 75 Online – 14

WATER GATHERING

Water bottles are available for you to take home. Please take bottles along on vacation to collect water from your travels, and then bring the water back and give it to Pastor Steve for safekeeping. In the Fall we will combine all the water and purify it to use for the coming year.

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

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.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – “IT’S TIME TO SHARE”

In Galatians, the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. We can make a difference. Your gift to OGHS provides immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. The need has never been greater. It's time to share. This special offering by UCC National will be received on **Sunday, March 19**, and continue to the end of March.

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.

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 and on **Sunday, 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.

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**.

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**.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 (from March 5 – No update due to Sue’s vacation.)

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

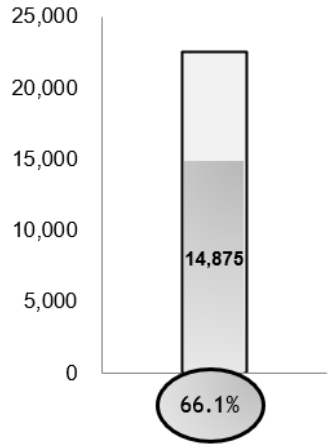
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,875.43
Overall Percent	66.1%

Last Week	
Start:	2/19/23
End:	2/25/23
Total:	2,557.00

Amt need to reach Target	
FEBRUARY 2023	7,624.57

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

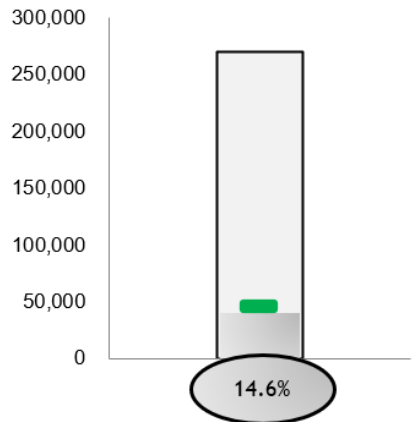
FEBRUARY 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	39,458.71
Overall Percent	14.6%



Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



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.

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.

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**.

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.

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!

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**.

Church Calendar for the Week of March 12 – March 19, 2023

Sun, 3/12	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:45 am	Worship Service
		Newsletter deadline
Mon 3/13	6:00 pm	Bells of St. John
	7:00 pm	Jubilation Choir
Tues, 3/14	10:30 am	Visitation Committee
	1:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed, 3/15	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Conference Lenten Program
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/16	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Fri, 3/17	7:00 pm	Gift Card Bingo
Sat, 3/18	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 3/19	8:15 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation
	10:45 am	Worship Service

OUR STAFF

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org	
Patrick Sandt	Director of Music Ministries & Organist
sjfmusic@sjuccf.org	
Alison Berger Boor	Office Administrator
sjfofficesecretary@sjuccf.org	
Sue Weldner	Treasurer
sbweldner@gmail.com	
Thomas and Emilie Moyer	Financial Secretary
tommoyer54@gmail.com	
Michelle Gutekunst	Worship Tech & Coordinating Custodian
sjfstars@sjuccf.org	
sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org	
Bob Czekner	Custodian
rczekner11@aol.com	
Christina Bach	Custodian
Ironton1@verizon.net	

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