

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!*

**June 25, 2023
Open and Affirming Sunday
9:30am**

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.*

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship.

The offering plates are on pedestals at the back.

*We welcome your gifts to God of praise and gratitude in our ministry. The
offering is presented later in the worship service.*

Guests, please don't feel obligated to contribute financially.

The support of the church is the responsibility of our congregation.

*Children's Faith Formation takes place with the worship service through
the Children's Message time, then the children are led to their classroom for
our "Blessed to Be a Blessing" lesson in Rm.101.*

*Parents are welcome to go with the children to see the area and
sign in their children, then pick them up following the worship service.*

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Peaceful Interlude—Arr. by Paul Tate

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

~ Children's Ministry and Vacation Bible School / Kids Camps

~ 5G Connection for New Persons to St. John's

June 25 after worship / Received in Covenant, July 9

~ Insert about bus trip to Ocean City on September 23rd

~ July Worship Theme

"Come to Your Senses: Developing Our 5 Spiritual Senses"

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Linda Powell

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey of discipleship that will radically transform our lives.

All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”

One: Christ calls us to a journey of “follow-ship” that will challenge us as it challenged Jesus to live the truth of his identity. It is not easy to let Christ’s love be shown in the face of adversity or hostility and yet,

All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey that will radically transform us and the world. Christ blesses us so that we do not have to travel alone, but with all others who hear their name and say “yes.”

All: Let us continue the journey as we worship the One who calls us in spirit and in truth!

***Opening Hymn:**

All Are Welcome

Verses 1, 3 and 5

Hymn found on page 3 of the bulletin

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Linda Powell

One: Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being – you call us to journey with you as you journeyed on this earth – in love, in power, in healing, in conflict, in boldness, speaking truth to the powers that be. Yet we are often afraid for our lives and reputations. We are often afraid of those who would bully us spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. We are often afraid to identify with you because your name has been used to justify harm to those who are marginalized and oppressed.

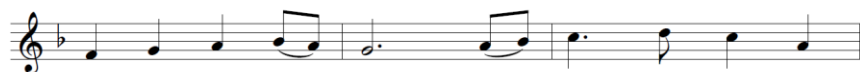
All: We forget that you have promised to watch over and care for us as much as and more than you care for the sparrows. We forget that you will never deny us and will be with us throughout our earthly lives into our life eternal. Forgive us our fear – Forgive us our forgetfulness – Forgive us our hiding and turning from your path. Forgive us for our unbelief and heal us with your peace and your presence.

(Time for silent prayer)

All Are Welcome



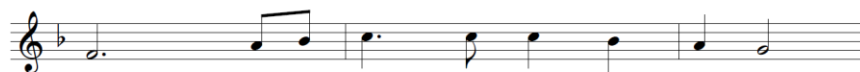
1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Words of Assurance

Written by Déjà Baptiste

Liturgist: Linda Powell

One: You are not alone. You are not the first or the only.
There is a lineage you are inheriting. It is your courage,
your faith, your spirit that sets you apart. We are not
doomed; we are not cursed.

All: **We are the blessed ones. We are blessed to know our
spirits are not only bound in our skin. That bodies,
like names, are expressions. Manifesting the soul we
bear outside of time and beyond infinity, there is a
lineage here. We heard and nurtured our ancestors’
dreams and came forward to create and dream,
imagine and plant, live in the physical what is
celebrated and cherished and renewed in the
spiritual. Amen, Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message

Rev. Davis

Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

Hymn:

The Summons, Verses 1 and 2

Hymn found on page 6 of the bulletin

*Scripture Reading

Galatians 3: 23-29

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

**We are the Body of Christ
“Longing for a Safe Place”**

Special Music

You Are Mine

Arranged by M. Hayes

Soloists: Joy Gravely and Emily Szuter

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of love, unity and grace, who fashions us to be the many members of the Body of Christ, draw us together as one. We gather this day knowing you by many names, and we call on you to hear us as we pray for...

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, who leads us to pray:

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

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.

The Summons



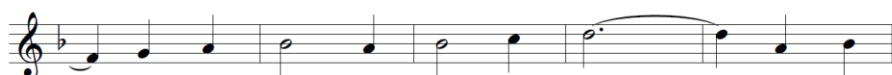
1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call your name? Will you set the
 call your name? Will you quell the
 call my name. Let me turn and



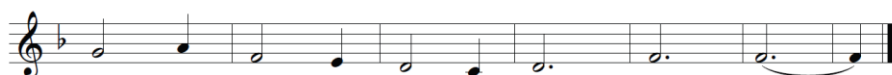
you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 7 7 7 6; Scottish traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Linda Powell

All that we have belongs to you. You provide for our every need – now we bring back a part of what you’ve given to us, in love, we gladly say thank you. Receive our gifts which we return to you full hearted and freely. Take and use them for your glory and for the blessing of your beloved creation everywhere.

~ We Serve ~

***Hymn**

We Are the Church Alive
All Verses

Hymn found on page 8 of the bulletin

***The Benediction**

Postlude

A Joyful Trumpet—Arr. by Patricia Lou Harris

*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.

Attendance

June 18 – On site 125 Online views 71

Sponsorship Opportunities: You can sponsor altar flowers for \$25 a vase, \$20 for bulletins, \$15 for the wheat basket (donated to the Food Pantry) and \$100 for the monthly newsletter.

Serving in Worship Leadership

June 25

Liturgist – Linda Powell

Scripture Reader – Sharon Czekner

Ushers – Linda Powell, Wayne Lichtenwalner

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox & Bill Castello

July 2

Ushers – Consistory

Worship Tech – Bill Castello and Elijah Fox

We Are the Church Alive

1. We are the Church A - live, Christ's pres - ence on this earth; We
 2. We are the Church A - live, Our faith has set us free; No
 3. We are the Church A - live, All praise to God on high. Cre -

give God's Spi - rit bo - dy in the act of our new birth. As
 more en - slaved by guilt and shame we live our li - ber - ty! We
 a - tor, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er! We laud and mag - ni - fy Your

yield - ed o - pen chan - nels for God's de - scend - ing dove, We
 fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple and free - dom now pro - claim, De -
 name, Al - might - y God of love; Pray, give us life that we May

shout and sing, with joy we bring God's all in - clu - sive love.
 stroy - ing myths of doubt and fear in Je - sus' might - y name.
 be your Church, the Church A - live, For all e - ter - ni - ty.

TEXT: Jack Hoggatt-St. John and David Pelletier, 1980

MUSIC: Jack Hoggatt-St. John, 1980

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The Hymnal Project, © 1989 MCC San Francisco

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In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Anita Beil, Clarence Biehn, Carl Case family, Thomas Chryst, Jean Coombe, Marion DeMilio, Sandra Diefenderfer, Robert and Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Gary Hallman, Ruthann Hallman, Blaine Holden, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Adrienne Kiesbar, Elaine Lentz, 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, Amanda, Nick and Samuel Devaney.

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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Donations needed for June: pancake mix, juice, cereal, peanut butter and ground coffee. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always welcomed. The Food Pantry is also in need of volunteers who can help the 4th Monday of each month either in the morning or in the evening. Contact Gary Black at 484-274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com if you would like to volunteer to help at the food pantry.

LOOKING FOR ABLE-BODIED, GOOD-HEARTED PEOPLE!

Pastor Steve and Bill would welcome any assistance on **June 27 and 28** as they move out of their present location and on **July 2** as they move into their new location in Bethlehem. They will be moving furniture and boxes from about **3:00–8:00pm** for the move out and **2:00pm** for the move-in. Contact Pastor Steve at (325) 725-2423 or sjfsrpastor@sjuccf.org to let him know when you can help. Any time you can give to help will be GREATLY appreciated. Thank you!

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, June 27**.

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 **July 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.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION NEEDS YOUR LOVE!

Our children's program, "Blessed to Be a Blessing" will continue throughout the summer. Following the Children's Message, the kids and adult leaders and helpers will leave for the classroom. Once there, the children will gather in the sacred circle to hear the Bible story of the day and be invited to pray in response. We will also be engaging the children in a craft that is related to the story.

Please check out the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. We need two volunteers each Sunday, one to lead and one to help. Those of us who have been leading and helping all along are planning to sign-up for two Sundays. ***Please add your name to the two weeks when you are available. If you have questions you can speak to anyone listed above.***

Thank you in advance for sharing your LOVE with our children.

HAVE YOU SEEN--?

A microphone with a red cover? A wireless mic with a red cover has been missing for several weeks. If you see it, please return it to the Tech desk.



CRAFTERS HAVE SOMETHING NEW!

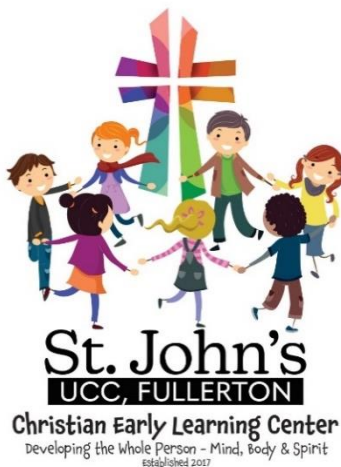
St. John's Crafters have now made Tissue Box Covers, which are available for sale. Cost is \$8.00. We are still looking for more people who can crochet. All we need is your time and talent to crochet the tops on our T-towels. Supplies will be provided. Contact Carol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or email at craszler@aol.com for all sales or if you are interested in becoming part of this group.

COMING SOON

Some of you have asked if we will be doing the annual Fruit and Nut Sale this year and the answer is "yes." Look for more information in the August and September newsletters.

DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH?

Alison is looking for someone who can speak in Spanish to communicate with persons who would like to use the pavilion. This would probably only mean an occasional telephone call. Thank you.



SAVE THE DATES!!!

**JULY 18-20
& AUG. 15-17
9:00 - Noon**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
CAMPS**

**SIGN UP TO HELP &
CONTRIBUTE**

Special offerings are still being received to support the two remaining Summer VBS Camps, done in partnership with our St. John's Christian Early Learning Center (CELC). Your contributions will help us raise \$3,000 towards funding for CELC staff, supplies and materials. Please sign up for the dates which you are available to participate as a volunteer leader/helper/support.



For each VBS Camp, kids will receive a St. John's t-shirt, and enjoy 3 mornings of fun, stories, crafts and snack time. Follow the link or go to our website and click on "VBS" in the homepage banner tabs to register and share your suggested donation to help cover costs.

We are recommending \$10/child for each camp or a maximum of \$20/family for each camp. If you would like to contribute online to help support this ministry, please use our secure giving and in the "Miscellaneous" section, note the donation for VBS. This is only a suggested donation.

All children who register will be able to participate regardless of the ability to share the suggested donation.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JUNE 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	13,831.65
Overall Percent	61.5%

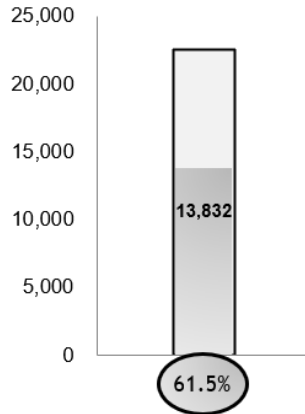
Last Week	
Start:	6/18/23
End:	6/24/23
Total:	3,813.35

Amt needed to reach Target

JUNE 2023 8,668.35

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



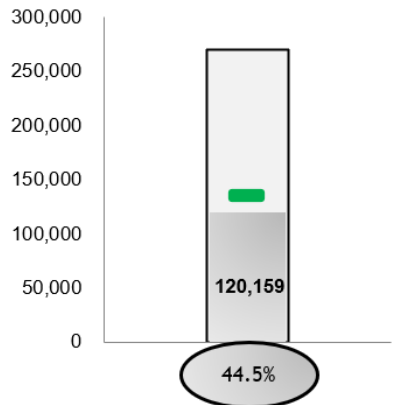
YTD OFFERINGS

JUNE 2023

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	135,000.00
Overall Total	120,159.10
Overall Percent	44.5%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of June 25 – July 2, 2023

Sun 6/25	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
		5G New Member Class
Tues 6/27	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 6/28	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
		Men's Breakfast at the HamFam
Sat 7/1	8:30 am	Zumba
	9:30 am	Private Event - Pavilion
	3:00 pm	
Sun 7/2	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation

OUR STAFF

Rev. Steve Davis	Senior Pastor
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Patrick Sandt	Director of Music Ministries
sjfmusic@sjuccf.org	
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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sjfcustodians@sjuccf.org	Coordinating Custodian
Bob Czekner	Custodian
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Christina Bach	Custodian
Ironton1@verizon.net	
Newsletter	newsletter@sjuccf.org