

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!**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

9:30 am

We Worship

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ!*

You are WELCOME HERE!

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.

Sunday Social is a time to gather for light refreshments, connection time, visiting, making new friends, and building relationships. Our kitchen leaders and volunteers take a break during the summer months, and we resume on September 6.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice

NC—New Century Hymnal

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*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand.**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Interlude

Arranged by Paul Tate

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: We gather in the quiet of this space, stepping away from the endless noise of a rushing world.

All: We come with open, waiting hearts. We pant for your presence, O God, longing for the unfolding light of your Word.

One: In the stillness, God whispers to us: *“Ask what I should give you.”*

All: We ask only for a listening heart, that we might discern what is good, and holy, and true.

One: Yet, there are days when our minds are clouded, when the burdens we carry are too heavy to name, and we do not even know how to pray.

All: In our silence and in our exhaustion, we trust God's Spirit to pray within us, interceding with sighs too deep for human words.

One: So let us pause. Let us breathe. Let us seek the hidden treasure of God's Kingdom, buried in the soil of our ordinary lives.

All: In this quiet confidence, let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn WR #22**

*Let All Things Now Living
All Verses*

Invitation and Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Sometimes we come to worship carrying burdens so heavy, or anxieties so tangled, that we cannot even find the words to explain them. We lose sight of what truly matters, chasing after false treasures and relying on our own fragile wisdom. Even when we have no words, God hears our hearts. Trusting in God's boundless mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, forgive us when we let anxiety overshadow your promises. Forgive us when we act as though we are separated from your love, forgetting that your Spirit is actively working all things together for good. Give us the wisdom to discern what is right, the courage to lay down our selfish desires, and the grace to surrender our whole lives to your hidden, holy Kingdom. Amen.

Sung Response

*Hear our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our Prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.*

*Hear our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our Prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

Let All Things Now Living



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
2. His law he en - forc - es, The stars in their cours - es,



To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine,



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



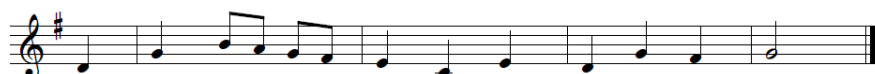
God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:



Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, © 1939, E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
Tune: ASH GROVE, 66 11 66 11 D; Welsh; harm. by Gerald H. Knight, 1908-1979

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our burdens are known, and our lives are held securely in God's hands of love.

All: **Our souls pant for your word, O Lord, and your light unfolds within us. We are forgiven, we are free, and we are fiercely loved. Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Rev. Steve Davis

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

Hymn:

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
All Verses

285 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur-mur of the dove's song, like the chal-enge of her
2 To the mem-bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
3 With the heal-ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease-less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:

*Scripture Reading

Read by: Sherri Gangewere

Psalms 119: 129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name. Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let

iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Romans 8: 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One: The word of God for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Core Faith: All In, Together with God

Hymn

*All That We Have
Verses 1 and 2*

Hymn found on page 6

All That We Have

Refrain



All that we have and all that we of-fer Comes from a



heart both fright-ened and free. Take what we bring now and



give what we need, All done in his name.

Verses



1. Some would re - ly on their pow - er,
2. Some - times the road may be lone - some,
3. Some - times when trou - bles are man - y,



Oth - ers put trust in their gold.
Of - ten we may lose our way;
Life can seem emp - ty, it's true,



Some have on - ly their Sav - ior,
Take cour - age and al - ways re - mem - ber
But look at the life of the Mas - ter,



Whose faith - ful - ness nev - er grows old.
Love is - n't just for a day.
Who lov - ing - ly suf - fered for you.

D.C.

Text: Gary Ault, b.1944
Tune: Gary Ault b.1944; acc. by Gary Daigle, b.1957, alt.
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We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

(Requests shared from the entry table basket.)

Rev. Steve Davis
Rev. Todd Fennell

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**

Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your
generosity and faithfulness
in supporting the ministry
of St. John's UCC!

Love Your Neighbor
Medical Debt Fundraiser

*Doxology

Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

**All: God of abundant grace and hidden treasures, we bring
these gifts before you today, recognizing that everything we
have is a gift from your hand. We offer our time, our**

resources, and our very lives as tiny mustard seeds. Plant them in the soil of this world. May your Spirit multiply them like yeast in the dough, that they might feed the hungry, comfort the brokenhearted, and expand your

We Serve

Kingdom of justice and peace. We dedicate these offerings in the name of Jesus Christ, our ultimate treasure. Amen.

***Closing Hymn WR #522**

We Are All One in Mission

Verses 1 and 2

Found on page 9

***Benediction**

Rev. Steve Davis

***Postlude**

Sunday's Joy

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Worship

*During June, July, and August,
Adult and Children's Faith Formation activities take a break
with special opportunities announced. We look forward to coming
together again on September 6.*

Attendance: July 19

Onsite: 66 Online: 41 Total: 107

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 26

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128

1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

552 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for serv - ice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty:
 4 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:
 the au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-)
 MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

AURELIA
 7.6.7.6.D.

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeter: Wayne Lichtenwalner and Linda Powell

Ushers: Karen Stoisits and Carole O'Connell

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist and Scripture: Sharon Czekner

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corinna Purdon

Greeter/Ushers: Consistory

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Phyllis Ambearle, Gracie Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Nicholas Bach, Tammy Beitzel, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Regina Hickman, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Dale Millham, Ryan Mohr, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bobby Sherman, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson and George Williams.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger.

Prayers for Bob and Lee Ann Lopez, the Amaral and Keister family at the passing of Bob's father, Robert Lopez, Sr. on July 18.

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.** To add someone to our prayer list please contact the Church Office.

NOTE: Beginning in September, we will be introducing Our Monthly Prayers which will be taking the place of "In Our Prayers." A binder will be placed in the back of the church where you are encouraged to list individuals you would like added to the prayer list. Our "In Our Prayers" will then be a monthly update with prayers of the congregation, our homebound members, and members of the military.

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

Tonight, beginning at 7:00 pm, St. John's Music Ministry is honored to welcome The Jerusalem Singers, under the direction of Pete Deshler. The Jerusalem Singers are a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to public service and the performance of quality choral music. A Free Will offering will be received at the door.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS starts on **Monday, July 27** and ends **Friday, July 31**. Please contact DonnaLee Yeatts or Samantha Kistler for more information and to help.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For July, we're collecting **pancake mix, pancake syrup, pasta, canned corn, and coffee**. Any other food donations, or monetary donations, are always welcome. Your donations can be placed on the table in Fox Hall. For more information or to volunteer on the 4th Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

GIANT, WEIS, AND REDNER'S

Buy Giant & Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. You can purchase gift cards from the office or from Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday morning. Save receipts from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar is on the table in Fox Hall or see Karen Stoisits. **Please do not roll the receipts and do not include receipts from other stores.**

BASEBALL AT IRONPIGS

We have 64 people going to the IronPigs game on August 11 at 6:45 pm. It's "Dollar Dog Night," where hotdogs are only \$1 all night long. If you haven't picked up your tickets, please see Carol Raszler after worship.

BACKPACKS, CALCULATORS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Today is the last day we're accepting backpacks and school supplies for the children of the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Items may be placed on the table in Fox Hall or given to Carol Raszler.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We congratulate Rev. Todd Fennell on the 46th Anniversary of his Ordination (July 28, 1980).

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. We meet this month on **August 1 at 8:30 am. Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith is the guest speaker.** We'd be pleased to have you join us. If you'd like to know more about The Men's Breakfast Group, please contact Pastor Steve.

**WANTED: BRAVE SOULS WITH LUNGS, LARYNXES, AND
A LOVE FOR MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE!**

*(oh and of course anyone who can successfully ring a handbell
without flinging it across the room)*

25 DAY COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!

EXTRA!
EXTRA!



THE TON SHALL
BE DELIGHTED!

LORD WHISTLEDOWN

YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS MUSIC AT ST. JOHN

A NEW SEASON *begins...*

Dearest friends and fellow music lovers,
The time has come to raise our voices and ring our bells
in joyful praise! St. John's Music Ministry warmly invites
you to join us as we begin another season of faith,
fellowship, and beautiful music.
All are welcome—come, be a part of the harmony!



BELLS OF ST. JOHN

begin

TUESDAY,
AUGUST 18TH

AT 6PM
IN THE CHURCH



THE CHOIR

begin

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 20TH

AT 6:30PM
IN THE MUSIC ROOM



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
please contact Lord Whistledown himself (Patrick)



Email:
Music@sjuccf.org



Phone:
(484) 241-0250

LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!
PSALM 100:1



Love Your Neighbor Churches FUNDRAISER for Medical Debt Relief Now through August 16th



Every \$10 donated relieves \$1,000 of medical debt.

A group of churches are working together to raise \$20,000 which would forgive \$3 million of medical debt in Lehigh and Northampton counties through an agency called Undue Medical Debt.

Learn more at: unduemedicaldebt.org

How to donate:

1) Donate to one of the participating churches with a note for "Medical Debt Relief"

OR

2) Donate directly to our campaign at:
<https://unduemedicaldebt.org/campaign/love-your-neighbor-churches-friends/>



Scan
to Donate



COMMUNITY-WIDE PICNIC & CELEBRATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH 3PM-7PM

Union UCC Grove 5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA

Hosted by all of the churches and friends participating!

Food * Music * Playground * Gift Card Raffle

FREE ~ donations accepted for Medical Debt Relief

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL AMOUNT RAISED!

PICNIC SIGN UPS:

VOLUNTEER

Sunday, August 16th

<https://bit.ly/3R5rxn3>

ATTEND Picnic

Sunday, August 16th

<https://bit.ly/4dofKaD>



We won't take attendance or turn folks away but signing helps us with planning.

Love Your Neighbor Churches:

Asbury Methodist, Allentown;

The Barn, Allentown;

Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington;

Grace Lutheran, Macungie;

Grace UCC Northampton;

Heidelberg Union, Slatington;

Jordan UCC, Allentown;

New Creation UCC, Easton,

St. John's Lutheran/Second Chance Shoppe, Slatington;

St. John's UCC, Fullerton;

St. John's UCC Laury's Station;

Union Lutheran, Schnecksville;

Union UCC, Neffs;

AND YOU!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JULY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	7,636.59
Overall Percent	33.9%

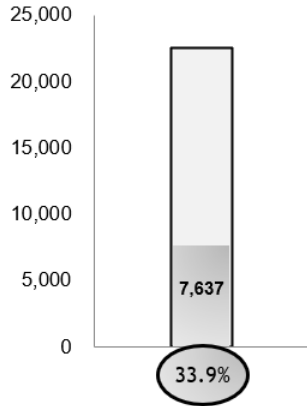
Last Week	
Start:	7/12/26
End:	7/18/26
Total:	2,779.00

Amt needed to reach Target

JULY 2026	14,863.41
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



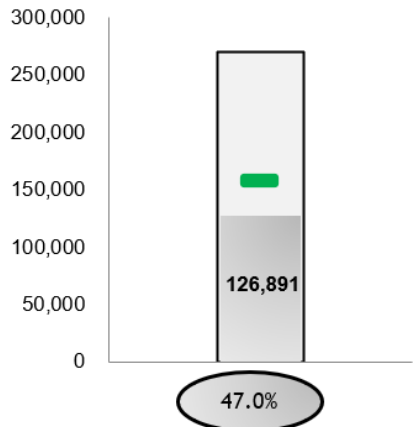
YTD OFFERINGS

JULY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	157,500.00
Overall Total	126,890.61
Overall Percent	47.0%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

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srpastor@sjuccf.org

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& Coordinating Custodian***

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