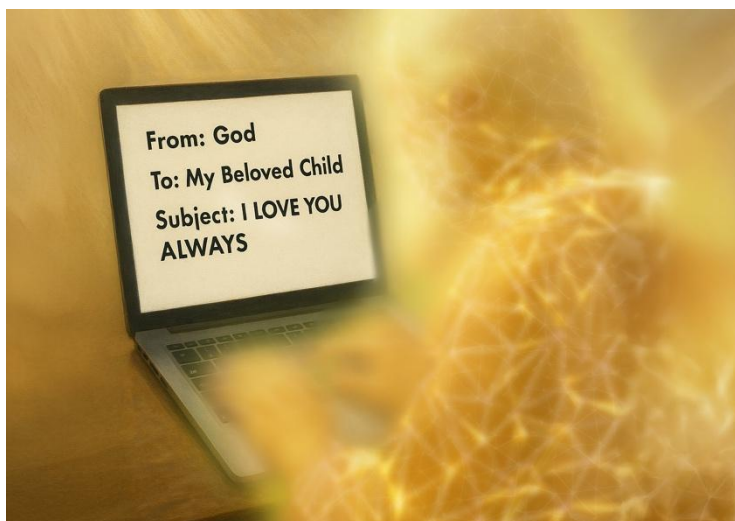




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



August 10, 2025
9:30am



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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We celebrate the life and hope we find together in God's love!

*As the music begins, please find your place and
quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

***Our Offering** is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, 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.*

***Children's Faith Formation** begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. Parents are asked to accompany their child if they are at the kids' table in the back.*

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

- Painters and Gardeners Needed – Visit with Wayne Lichtenwalner
- St. John's CONNECTION Classes
Aug. 17, 18, 20 & 24 (See pg. 13)
- St. John's Music Ministry — August 21 (See pg. 12)
- Gathering Sunday, September 7 & Sunday Socials
- Faith Formation Registration for children and youth
- December bus trip to NYC (See pg. 13)

***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

Teach Me to Fly
Mark Miller

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

All: By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.

One: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

All: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.

One: We are God's children who are invited to feast at the table of grace.

All: By faith we will embrace our siblings in Christ.

***Gathering Hymn**

The Mighty God with Power Speaks

Verses 1 and 3

found on page 3

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: God calls us to walk in faith, but we do not always follow. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

All: God of the ages, we hear of our ancestors and are astounded by their faith. They trusted you, but we waver. They believed in your promise, but we cling to our own ideas. Forgive us and free us from our fear, that we may follow with joy wherever you may lead, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: From age to age, from generation to generation, God's mercy never fails. Hear the good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)

1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
 2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;
 3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
 be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.
 a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
 All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;
 Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.
 who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 1999; rev. 2011

MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Text © 1999, 2011 Michael Morgan (admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources)

KINGSFOLD

CMD

Hymn

God of the Sparrow
Verses 1, 4, 5, and 6

found on page 5

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4, 11
Read by: Joy Gravely

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

God of the Sparrow

Unison

G C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar-row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain-bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun-gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh-bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a-ges God near at hand

G C F E7 Am Em

God of the swirl-ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum-pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp-ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod-i-gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun-ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov-ing heart How do your chil-dren say

F Em Am Dm 1-5 Gsus G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home

*last time

WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-)

MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk (1929-)

Words © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda
Music © 1983 GIA Publications

ROEDER

5.4.6.7.7.

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

**“Dear Children of God!”
Desiring the better “Out”**

Special Music

Speak O Lord

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Regi Mohr, Violinist

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

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!

***Doxology**

Praise God
Jimmy Owens

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

**All: Generous God, use these gifts we offer as a sign of your
great love for the world, so that all may know and share
the abundance of your grace; in your holy name we
pray, Amen.**

We Serve

***Closing Hymn**

O God Our Help in Ages Past
Verses 1, 2, and 3

found on page 8

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Postlude on "St. Anne"

Arranged by Noel Rawesthrone

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*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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Altar Flowers

One vase is given in honor of the birthday of Mike Gravely
by his wife Joy and sons Jonathon and Michael.

84 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5 Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all of us a - way;
 6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 we fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - ening day.
 be now our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

Attendance – August 3

Onsite – 67 Online – 21

9th Sunday after Pentecost, August 10

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist/Scripture Reader: Joy Gravely Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck

Greeter: Cindy Reck

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 17

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12:49-56

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeter/Ushers: Carole O'Connell

Ushers: Kim Hillegass and

Sharon Antrim

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Clarence Biehn, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Barry and Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

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

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.

GROCERY OPPORTUNITIES – GIANT, WEIS & REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. Get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday. Save the register tapes from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoisits. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include other stores' receipts.

BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" SHOPPING PASS

Purchase a \$5.00 shopping pass from St. John's and the church gets to keep the funds. The pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sales price, in-store and online. To get your pass, see Ginny Brokenshire before or after worship or give Ginny a call at (610) 439-0443. Save the shopping date at Boscov's: **Wednesday, October 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS

With the year half over, we can now offer these books to you at a reduced cost of only \$10.00. You'll find coupons for restaurants (both dining and fast food), clothing, sporting goods stores, businesses, fun & recreation activities & more. Checks are payable to St. John's. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

BAZAAR ITEMS NEEDED

Time to clean out your closets, basement, garage, and shed. We're looking for items you no longer use or need such as: **jewelry, purses, linens, toys & games, puzzles, CDs, dishes, pots & pans, glassware, knickknacks, attic treasures, books, appliances, small furniture, and seasonal décor.** All items must be clean and in working order. We will **NOT accept:** clothing, encyclopedias, magazines, records, bowling balls, computers, monitors, printers. So, start bringing in your items now and drop them off in the office or in Room 303. If you have any questions or would like to help in any department, contact Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler. Be sure to put the Bazaar date on your calendar—Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

The catastrophic flooding that occurred in Texas and in other parts of the country have claimed 135 lives, including 27 campers and counselors at a Christian summer camp for girls, and 3 people are still missing. UCC's Disaster Ministries Team is helping the victims of this disaster as well as giving support for the long-term recovery

efforts. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, you can find Disaster Relief Fund envelopes on the table in the lounge or in your August newsletter. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC with "Severe Storms" in the memo section. The deadline to receive donations is Sunday, August 31.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of August, we are collecting juice, cereal, jelly, pancake mix, and pancake syrup. Any other non-perishable food items as well as monetary contributions are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of each month from 9am to 11am or 5:30pm to 8:00pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com.

PASTIE SALE

Choose from meat pasties, melts, and fruit turnovers. Prices vary from \$7.50 to \$8.50 for the meat and melt pasties and \$4.50 for the fruit turnovers. Order forms can be found on the table in the lounge, August newsletter, or church's website under "Forms." Pickup is Thursday, October 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, down in Fox Hall. Deadline to order is Sunday, September 7. Checks, payable to St. John's, must accompany all orders. Give your orders to Carol Raszler or mail into the church office.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

You are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown on the 4th Tuesday of the month 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, August 26.**

♪ AN ANNOUNCEMENT MOST MUSICAL ♪

It is with no small amount of interest (and perhaps a raised eyebrow or two) that I bring you the season's most tantalizing development: The return of St. John's Music Ministry! Yes, the bells shall toll, the sopranos shall soar, and the altos, tenors, and basses shall sing the right notes without hesitation or delay.

Mark your dance cards, for the Season begins:

Thursday, August 21st, 2025 with both bells and choir!

♪ **Bell Ringers at 6:00 PM** — Those with a penchant for punctuality and polished hand-eye coordination are cordially invited to clamor melodiously. Gloves are a must. Drama discouraged.

♪ **Choir at 7:00 PM** — If you can carry a tune (or at least appear confident doing so), this is your cue to arrive, open your choral Folio, and dazzle heaven itself.

Who Should Attend?: Those whose voices are as angelic as the cherubim... or at least louder than the organ. Gentlemen brave enough to sing in the presence of altos. Altos brave enough to harmonize without stealing the spotlight from our Queens of the night. And anyone who has ever thought, "Well, how hard can it be to ring a bell?"

To inquire about additional information, you have two options, using the latest technology in what most readers will call an email, (*I prefer weekly correspondences by hand with scented stationery if possible*) to the director (music@sjfucc.org) or option 2, simply be bold and daring by presenting yourself on the aforementioned Thursday, (it may not win points from the director, but he will simply need to get over it) follow the sound of voices, and declare with great conviction: "I have come to make a joyful noise."

ST JOHN'S CONNECTION CLASS

Our next Connection Class sessions for those who would like to make St. John's their faith home will be Session 1 - Sunday, August 17 at 11am, or Monday, August 18 at 7pm; or Session 2 - Wednesday, August 20 at 11am and Sunday, August 24 at 11am, to be received on Sunday, September 21! Participants need only attend 2 of the 4 opportunities, either on site at St. John's or online.

If you've been thinking of making your connection with St. John's more "official," contact the Church Office or let Pastor Steve know.

"Whoever you are and wherever you may be on life's journey, you are... **WELCOME HERE!**"

DECEMBER BUS TRIP

Spend the day, Saturday, December 13th, in NYC and enjoy the city during the holiday season. The cost of the trip is \$50.00 per person with the bus leaving the St John's parking lot. Additional information regarding drop-off at the Big Apple will be provided at a later date. Please write the checks to St John's UCC Fullerton and note the money is for the NYC bus trip.

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 10 – AUGUST 17**

Sun 8/10	9:30 am	Worship
		Newsletter deadline
Tues 8/12	1:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 8/13	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Summer Supper Study
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Sat 8/16	9:30 am	Zumba
		Friendship Class picnic
Sun 8/17	9:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Connection Class

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler samanthakistler@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Christina Bach ironton1@verizon.net