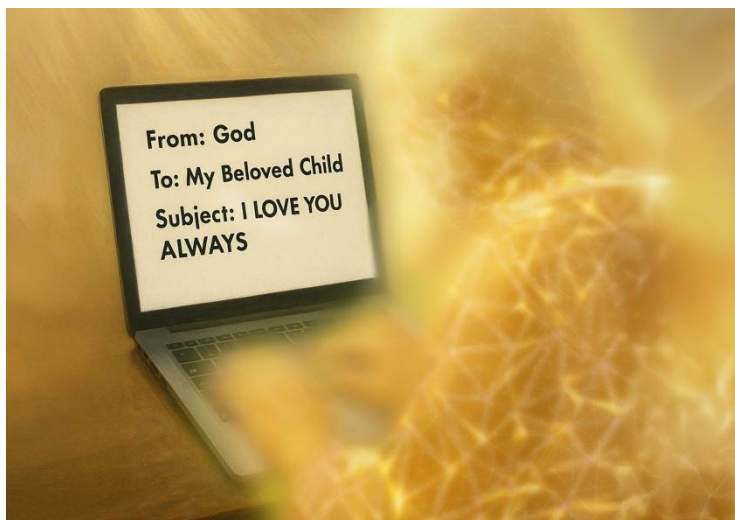




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



August 17, 2025
9:30am



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

Tenth 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

- St. John's CONNECTION Classes
Aug. 17, 18, 20 & 24 (See pg. 13)
- Gathering Sunday, September 7 & Sunday Socials
- Faith Formation Registration for children and youth
- December 13 bus trip to NYC (See pg. 14)
- Welcome Geoffrey Jackson as our new custodian

***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

Passacaglia
Handel Halvorsen

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Come! Lift your voices to God, the shepherd who cares for us.

All: We've come to praise God who gives us life.

One: In the face of challenges, the Holy One will guide us.

All: We seek God's presence, knowing our Shepherd guards our lives.

One: Praise God! It is this God who will restore us.

All: So we offer our prayer, yearning to be one with the Lord of hosts.

***Gathering Hymn**

We Praise You O God

Verses 1 and 3

found on page 3

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us. Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us. Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Jesus endured the cross and disregarded its shame for the sake of the joy that was set before him. That joy is our salvation. His joy is our freedom. Believe the good news:

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

We Praise You, O God

726

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring;
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been;
 our songs of thanks - giv - ing to you we now raise;

we lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 when per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er for - sake us,
 your strong arm will guide us, our God is be - side us,

we bless your ho - ly name: glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our bat - tles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

WORDS: Julia C. Cory (1882-1963), alt.

MUSIC: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Edward Kremser (1838-1914)

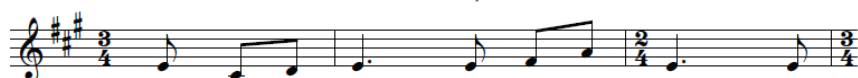
KREMSE

12.11.12.11.

Hymn

We Walk by Faith
Verses 1 through 4

We Walk by Faith



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side; Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI, CM; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Read by: Sherri Gangwere

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented--of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

**“Dear Children of God!”
For the Sake of Joy**

Special Music

Be Not Afraid

Arranged by Craig Courtney

Julie Mertus, Soloist

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you; Be not afraid; I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

Be not afraid: For I have redeemed you; Be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed. You are mine, you are precious in my sight, you are precious in my sight. You are precious in my sight.

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: Sharon Czekner

**All: We give you thanks and praise, O God. Help us to put
our faith into practice through the offering of our lives—
giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and
shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Christ. This we
pray in your most holy name, Amen.**

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

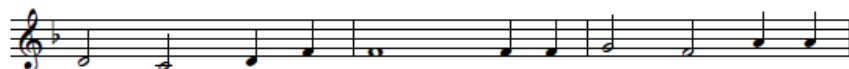
As a Fire is Meant for Burning
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 8

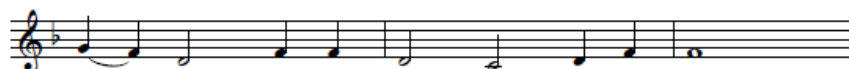
As a Fire Is Meant for Burning



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
 2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
 3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



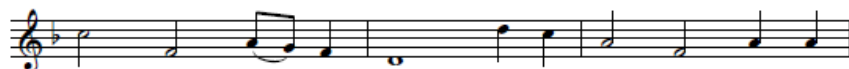
bright and warm - ing flame, So the church is meant for
 pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
 sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



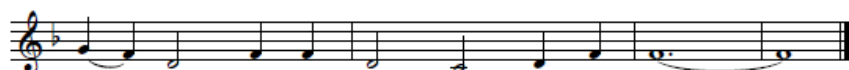
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
 giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
 one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues.



Not to preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to
 By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
 As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, We join hands a - cross the
 show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
 storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
 Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
 ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen, b.1950

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Festive Postlude in D
 John S. Dixon

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 in memory of the Rev. Dr. Roy K. Luckenbill
by Mike and Joy Gravely

One vase in loving memory of my grandfather, Harvey E. Saylor's
birthday on August 13, 1895 from granddaughter, Sandy Koch.

One vase in memory of Betty D'Argenio
by daughter Karen Stoissets and family

Bulletins

For George and Kammy's 58th Heavenly Anniversary.
Love, the Foxes

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule **9:30am Worship**

Attendance – August 10

Onsite – 87 Online – 31

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

11th Sunday after Pentecost, August 24

Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6

Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29 and Luke 13:10-17

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Kim Hillegass

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Pam Repetz

Ushers: Corrina Schneck and Kirby Hower

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

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, Roxanne DeMilio, 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, Molly Nicholas, 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 Stoitsits. 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 17 – AUGUST 24

| | | |
|------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Sun 8/17 | 9:30 am | Worship |
| | 11:00 am | Connection Class |
| Mon 8/18 | 6:00 pm | “Fun-Raising” Committee |
| | 7:00 pm | Connection Class |
| Tues 8/19 | 9:30 am | Staff Meeting |
| | 10:00 am | Community of Practice |
| Wed 8/20 | 9:00 am | Verso Chat |
| | 11:00 am | Connection Class |
| | 12 noon | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Painting Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Summer Supper Study |
| | 7:00 pm | SAA Recovery Group |
| Thurs 8/21 | 6:00 pm | Bell Choir |
| | 7:00 pm | Choir |
| Sun 8/24 | 9:30 am | Outdoor 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 samanthamkistler@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 iron1@verizon.net |
| Custodian | Geoffrey Jackson geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com |