

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/
VBS Sunday**

**August 2, 2026
9:30am**



We Worship

God's Love is a Gift

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

*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.

*All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted under
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*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Welcome and Announcements

Samantha Kistler

***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

Prayerful Thoughts

Arranged by Terry Osman

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

One: Come, all who thirst for grace, all who hunger for hope.

All: **We come to the One who gives freely, without price.**

One: Listen for the voice of the Lord, whose word is life.

All: **We turn our ears toward God's steadfast love.**

One: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

All: **We seek the One who calls nations, strangers, and wanderers home.**

One: Let us worship the God who invites us to the feast of mercy.

All: **We come with joy, for God's welcome is wide and God's table is full.**

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

We believe in God, the Creator of all, who opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. Out of nothingness, God spoke creation into being; out of our scarcity, God prepares a rich feast of grace, inviting us to buy wine and milk without money and without price.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Living Word, who is God's covenant made flesh for the world. He is the one who meets us in the dark watches of the night, who walks upon the chaotic, deep waters of our fear, and who reaches out His hand to catch us when we sink. In His life, death, and resurrection, we are anchored in a love that cannot be swept away.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of life that calms the storm. The Spirit prompts us to step out of our comfort zones, binds us together as one body at the table, and sends us out to feed a hungry world. Amen.



God's Love Changes Us

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

Invitation and Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

One: God's grace is not a distant hope; it is an immediate rescue.

Let us bring our doubts, our exhaustion, and the ways we have chased after things that do not satisfy before our merciful God, first in silent prayer.

Time for Silent Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving

722

Unison C C/E Dm7/F G7 F/C C

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer
 2 God bless the la - bor we bring to serve you;
 3 You are pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren,
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - ery peo - ple,

C Em Am C/E Am/F# Gsus G7

for all things liv - ing, you have made good:
 that with our neigh - bor we may be fed.
 your wis - dom guid - ing teach - es us share
 all lands con - fess - ing your gra - cious hand.

C F Dm7 C/E Am D/F#

har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the or - chard,
 Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work with you;
 one with an - oth - er so that, re - joic - ing,
 Where you are reign - ing no one will hun - ger,

Em/G C F G7 C

hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 oth - ers may know you and praise your care.
 your love sus - tain - ing, fruit - ful the land.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt.
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

Words © 1988 Oxford University Press
 Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgiving God, we confess that we are easily terrified by the wind and the waves of this life. We look at the storms around us and forget the voice that tells us, 'Do not be afraid.' Forgive our lack of faith.

Forgive our doubts when the waters get deep. Reach out Your hand and catch us once again, so that we may stand on the solid ground of Your mercy. 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*



God's Love is Always With Us

*"And I am convinced that nothing
can ever separate us from God's Love."*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

One: Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. Friends, hear and believe this truth:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free to try again. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Samantha Kistler

VBS Sunday: Rome: Paul and the Underground Church

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

Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill
Verses 1, 2, and 4

Found on page 5

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, Light of each to - mor - row,

Give us peace be - yond our fear And hope be - yond our sor - row.

Verses

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 - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
 Teach us all your way of heal - ing.

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.

D.C.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, 88 9 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b.1950
 © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Scripture Reading

Scripture Reader: Sharon Czekner

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Samantha Kistler

VBS Sunday

Song of Praise

Take Lord and Receive

Bernard Sexton

Soloists: Julie Mertus and Emily Szuter

We Love



God's Love Saves Us

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Samantha Kistler

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Samantha Kistler
& Rev. Cliff Herring

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2026.*

We Are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “Open Communion.”

***ALL persons are welcome to receive
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.***

In The UCC, ALL means ALL!

The Invitation to Receive

One: The Holy One be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

One: Loving God, we thank you because your love never runs dry.
When we are thirsty, you invite us to come and drink.
When we are hungry, you welcome us to your table.
When we feel lost, you call us by name and remind us that
we belong to you. You open your hand and satisfy the desire
of every living thing. Your mercy reaches farther than we
can see, and your kindness is greater than we can imagine.

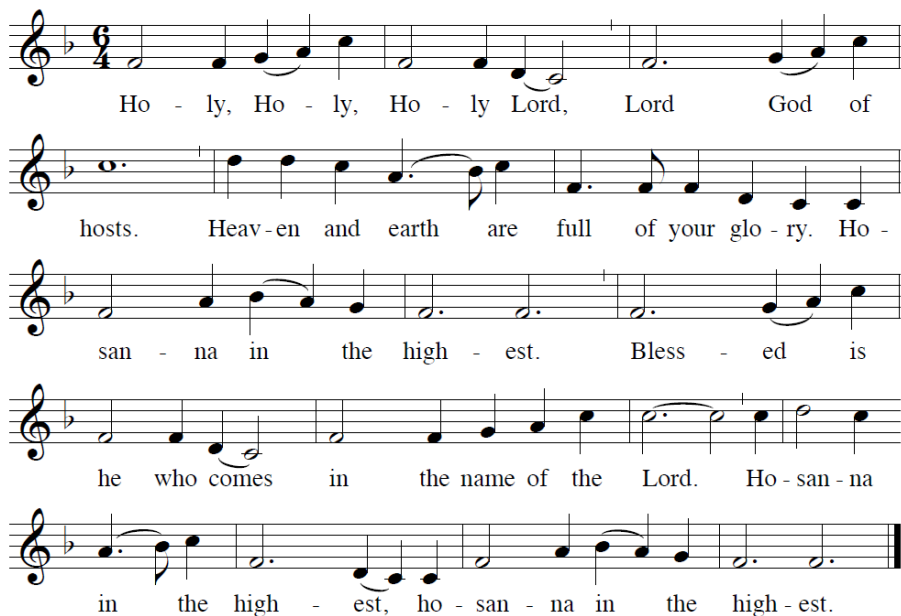
**All: Today you gather us—young and old, joyful and weary,
certain and searching—around this table of grace. Here
we remember that your love is not earned; it is given
freely, like cool water to the thirsty and bread to the
hungry.**

One: And so, with children and grandparents, with saints and
angels, with all creation singing your praise, we join our
voices together:

Sung Response

Found on page 8

SANCTUS



- One: Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. When crowds gathered hungry on hillsides and along dusty roads, Jesus welcomed them. When people felt forgotten, he noticed them. When hearts were empty, he filled them with hope.
- All: **He showed us that every meal can become a sign of your kingdom, where there is enough for all and where no one is turned away.**
- One: On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus gathered with his friends around a table. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the meal was finished, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my love, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

And so, remembering Christ's life, death, resurrection, and promise to come again, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Sung Response



*Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make this bread for us the bread of life. Make this cup for us the cup of grace.

All: As we eat and drink together, help us discover that we are never alone. Teach us that this meal is more than food; it is your love made visible. In this holy mystery, feed our hearts when they are empty, strengthen our spirits when they are weak, and remind us that your table is always wide enough for one more.

One: May this meal shape us into people who share generously, forgive freely, welcome joyfully, and love boldly. As Psalm 145 declares, may every generation tell the next of your mighty acts and your enduring goodness.

All: May our lives become songs of gratitude, proclaiming that you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Until the day when all people come to your feast and every hunger is satisfied, keep us faithful in hope and joyful in service.

One: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, loving God, now and forever.

Sung Response

AMEN



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: *Land of Rest*, American melody

Communion Hymn

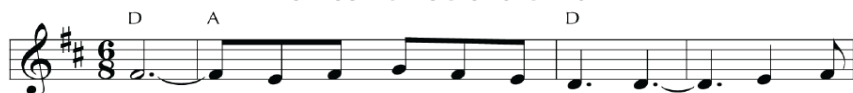
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Please join in singing Verses 1 and 2 as the element of bread is distributed,
Verses 3 and 4 as the element of Wine is distributed

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; you will
la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
find there my nets and la - bor.
love that keeps on lov - ing.
friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo



O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la a -



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

All: Having received these gifts, send us into the world to share your love, welcome the stranger, care for those in need, and proclaim your goodness. May our words and actions reflect the abundance of your kingdom, where all are invited and all are fed. Through Christ our Lord we pray.

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

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: Sherri Gangewere

All: Attentive God, as we bring these gifts, shape our lives to reflect your righteousness—faithful in love, honest in action, steady in compassion. Let our giving become praise in motion, a testimony that we seek your presence not only in stillness, but in faithful steps forward. This we pray in your most holy name, Amen.

We Serve



God's Love is Worth Sharing

"For I am not ashamed about this Good News about Christ."

***Closing Hymn**

Now Let Us from This Table Rise
All Verses

Found on Page 13

***Benediction**

Samantha Kistler

***Postlude**

Postlude on Duke Street
Arranged by Lari Smith

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

Attendance – July 26

Onsite – 68 Online – 36 Total: 102

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: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Sharon Czekner

Worship Tech: Jesus Pagan / Elijah Fox

Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Greeters and Ushers: Kay and Tom Chryst, Dewey Yeatts, Charlotte

Kerrigan and Bobbie Pope

873 Now Let Us from This Table Rise

DUKE STREET LM

1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise,
 2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace,
 3. To fill each hu - man house with love,
 4. Then give us cour - age, Fa - ther God,

1. Re - newed in bod - y, mind, and soul;
 2. To spread the word in speech and deed;
 3. It is the sac - ra - ment of care;
 4. To choose a - gain the pil - grim way,

1. With Christ we die and live a - gain,
 2. We fol - low in the steps of Christ,
 3. The work that Christ be - gan to do,
 4. And help us to ac - cept with joy

1. His self - less love has made us whole.
 2. At one with all in hope and need.
 3. We hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.
 4. The chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

Fred Kaan, 1929-2009
 Text © 1968, Hope Publishing Co.

A Select Collection of Hymn and Psalm Tunes, Glasgow, 1793

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 9

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

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Jean Fennell

Scripture Reader: Kay Chyrst

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

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, 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 Bill Castello and family at the passing of his mother, Sherry, in Waco, Texas.

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.

IN OUR PRAYER UPDATE

Beginning in the month of 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 to add 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.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, you are invited to attend a monthly daytime grief support group at Asbury UMC, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown. Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries, leads the group. For more information and to indicate your interest in attending, please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or 610-428-9095.

READERS, LITURGISTS, GREETERS, AND USHERS

We are seeking additional readers, liturgists, ushers, and greeters to help lead and support our Sunday worship services. These important ministries help create a welcoming and meaningful worship experience for all.

A new schedule for the fall season will be prepared in August, and we would love to include you! If you are interested in serving, please contact Patrick at music@sjuccf.org or call the church office at extension 13.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

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

COLLECTING ITEMS FOR BAZAAR

While the Bazaar isn't until November, we're starting to collect items during the summer months. If you have items left from your yard or garage sale; if you are moving and downsizing; if you received gifts you don't like or will never use; or if you have items you don't need anymore, we will take them. They can be brought into the church office or given to Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler on a Sunday morning. **Items not accepted: clothing, furniture, bowling balls, computers, monitors, printers, encyclopedias, magazines, and records.**

Upcoming "Fun-Raising" Events at St. John's

Tuesday, August 11 – IronPigs vs Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders at Coca Cola Park – 6:45pm. It's "Dollar Dog Night." Patti Skvoretz will throw out the First Pitch. See Carol.

Sunday, August 16 – Community-wide Picnic & Celebration for "Love Your Neighborhood Churches" Fundraiser– 3pm to 7pm at Union UCC Grove, 5550 Rt. 873, Neffs. Hosted by St. John's & 13 other churches. Food, music, gift card raffle. Donations accepted for Medical Debt Relief. See article in this newsletter. Contact Pastor Steve.

Giant & Weis Gift Cards – Church gets 5% back. See Tom or Carol.

Redner's Register Tapes – Church gets 1% back. Please do not roll the register tapes or submit receipts from other stores. See Karen.

Coming In Fall

30th Annual Road Rally – Sunday, October 4 – Meet at 1:30pm at church. Follow the route and arrive at a restaurant for supper. See Tom or Don Schneck.

Halloween Gift Card Bingo – Friday, October 16 – Doors open at 6:00pm; games begin at 7:00pm. Food available to purchase. 50/50 & Tricky Tray. \$20 In advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets available the end of summer. See Tom.

Bosco's "Friends Helping Friends" – Wednesday, October 21– 8:00am to 11:00pm. Purchase a \$5 pass (offering 25% in sales) and the church keeps the funds. See Ginny.

St. John's Bazaar – Saturday, November 14 – 9am to 2pm in Fox Hall. Start bringing in items now that you no longer need or want. Look for list of items we will accept in the newsletter or online. See Amy or Carol.

BASEBALL AT IRONPIGS

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

GIANT, WEIS, REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. You can 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 Fox Hall or see Karen Stoitsits. **Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include receipts from other stores.**

**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
lunging it across the room)*

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 6 PM
IN THE CHURCH



THE CHOIR *begin*

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 20TH

AT 6:30 PM
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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

George and Carol Isleib are seeking a housekeeper for monthly cleaning of their home. Cleaning duties include vacuuming, dusting, bathroom, and floors. All cleaning supplies needed are available at their home. If you know someone who can help or have a contact to share, please contact the church office and we'll share the contact information.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2 - 9

Sun 8/2	9:30 am	Worship
Mon 8/3		Preschool Camp
Tue 8/4		Preschool Camp Zion UCC Overnight 6:30 pm Stewardship & Finance
Wed 8/5		Preschool Camp 12:00 pm Painting Group 6:00 pm Painting Group 6:30 pm Zumba 7:00 pm SAA Recovery Group
Thu 8/6		Preschool Camp 9:30 am Visitation
Sat 8/8	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 8/9	9:30 am	Worship (Outdoor Bluegrass Service) Newsletter Deadline

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

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srpastor@sjuccf.org

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music@sjuccf.org

Ministry Intern

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