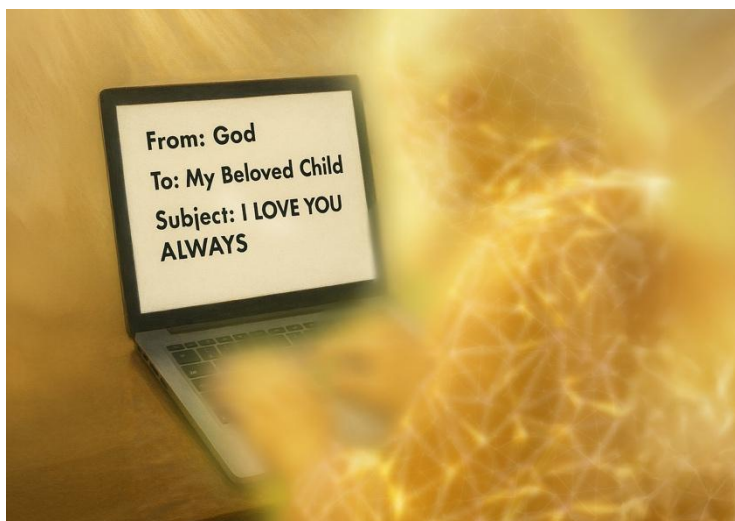




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



August 3, 2025
9:30am



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

Eighth 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.

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today we share the sacrament of Holy Communion, symbolizing the life and love of Jesus, through his body, represented in bread and wine/juice.

All are welcome to participate.

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

- Giant & Weis Cards and Redner's Tapes (See pg. 11)
- Painting Volunteers – Visit with Wayne Lichtenwalner
- St. John's CONNECTION Classes
Aug. 17, 18, 20 & 24 (See pg. 14)
- St. John's Music Ministry—returns August 21 (See pg. 13-14)

***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

The Love of God
Frederick Lehman

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: Gathered in from many lands,

All: We come from east and west, from north and south.

One: Some of us have wandered through deserts.

All: Some of us are hungry and thirsty.

One: But the Holy One heard our pleas

All: And has delivered us from our distress.

One: So we come with prayers of thanksgiving,

All: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Gathering Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

Verses 1, 2, and 4

For the Healing of the Nations 621

1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with one ac-cord,
2 Lead your peo-ple in - to free-dom, from de-spair your world re-lease,
3 All that kills a - bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the earth be banned;
4 You, Cre - a - tor - God, have writ-ten your great name on hu-man-kind;

for a just and e - qual shar-ing of the things that earth af-fords.
that, re-deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and go in peace.
pride of sta - tus, race, or school-ing, dog-mas that ob - scure your plan.
for our grow-ing in your like-ness, bring the life of Christ to mind;

To a life of love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.
Show us how, through care and good-ness, fear will die and hope in-crease.
In our com-mon quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.
that by our re-sponse and serv-ice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**"universal," that is, the one whole Christian church of all times and all places*

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: God of Justice, we gather from all corners of the world knowing that you have made a new world possible even as we hold on to the old world. Praise is on our lips, but in our hearts we know how far we have fallen from your glory. Yet you meets us in our sin, picks us up, promising forgiveness. We now make our confession and open ourselves to your mercy, coming to your gracious presence in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

All: Faithful God, we confess our faithlessness. Our hearts are fickle, our eyes wander, and we trick ourselves into serving other gods. Forgive our waywardness and lead us back to you. Embolden our trust in your faithfulness and settle your truth in our hearts.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

One: God's steadfast love endures forever. Beyond the cross,
beyond the grave, beyond our sin, God's steadfast love
endures forever. This is good news!

All: **Through Jesus' love we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Rev. Steve Davis

Hymn

Here Am I (All Verses)

Here Am I

1. Here am I, Where un - der - neath the brid - es
2. Here am I, With peo - ple in the line - up,
3. Here am I, Where two or three are gath - ered,
Of our win - ter cit - ies Home - less peo - ple sleep.
Anx - ious for a hand - out, Ach - ing for a job.
Read - y to be al - tered, Shar - ing wine and bread.
Here am I, Where in de - cay - ing hous - es
Here am I, When pen - sion - ers and strik - ers
Here am I, Where those who hear the preach - ing
Lit - tle chil - dren shiv - er, Cry - ing at the
Sing and march to - geth - er, Want - ing some - thing
Change their way of liv - ing, Find the way to
cold. Where are you?
new. Where are you?
life. Where are you?

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936
Tune: STANISLAUS, 3 7 6 5 D 3; Daniel Charles Damon, b. 1955
© Words 1983, music 1995, Hope Publishing Co.

***Scripture Reading:**

Colossians 3:1-4, 11

Read by: Corrina Schneck

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your^[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

“Dear Children of God!”

Christ is all and in all!

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2025.*

We are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “open communion.”

***ALL people 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: Blessed are you, O Lord our God: You have loved us from the beginning, teaching us to live and walk in faith, showing great compassion when we fall. Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Through parables, Jesus has taught us not to store up worldly wealth for ourselves but to trust in the generosity of God.

All: **Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Set our minds on things that are above, where Christ is, seated at your right hand. Let Christ Jesus be our all in all. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Consecration

Rev. Davis

Sharing the Meal

The elements will be passed in the pew. We will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup is passed and all drink together.

Hymn during Communion

Taste and See
by James Moore

Please join in singing the refrain

TASTE AND SEE

James E. Moore, Jr.

Taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord. O,
taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

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Refrain sung while the elements of bread are passed.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

Refrain sung while the elements of wine are passed.

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

All: Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Mother, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you. 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: Robin Brensinger

**All: Generous God, we give you thanks for all your blessings
to us. 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**

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 9

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

Postlude on Hymn to Joy
Arr. by Noel Rowesthorne

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2. Skills and time are ours for pres - ing t'ward the goals of
 3. Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your

end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Jes - us' wis - dom,
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom,
 grace con - ferred, ours to use for home and kin - dred,

cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door. Gift - ed by you,
 rac - es joined, the Church made one. Now di - rect our
 and to spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our

we turn to you, of - fring up our - selves in praise; thank -
 dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born
 hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal -

ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious Do - nor of our days.
 with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Words: Robert L. Edwards © 1961 The Hymn Society of America

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Music: HYMN TO JOY - Ludwig van Beethoven; arr. by Edward Hodges

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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Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

Attendance – July 27

Onsite – 80 Online – 30

8th Sunday after Pentecost, August 3

Lectionary Readings

Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger	Scripture Reader: Corrina Schneck
Worship Tech: Bill Castello	Altar Guild: Linda Apple
Greeter/Ushers: Sharon Antrim, Kay Chryst, Tom Chryst, Kathy Roth	

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: Joy Gravely	Scripture Reader: Michael Gravely
Worship Tech: Bill Castello	Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck
Greeter: Cindy Reck	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: 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 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.

CALLING ALL READERS AND LITURGISTS!

St. John's is looking to continue to build our established Volunteer list by adding additional readers and liturgists to our Sunday service.

The role of the Liturgist is to assist the pastor in leading worship services by helping to facilitate the entire service. They are not simply readers of scripture like a lector, but rather actively participate in guiding the congregation through the various parts of the worship. The liturgist may lead prayers, calls to worship, or read scripture, among other duties. The role of a Reader is someone who proclaims the scripture readings during the liturgy. They as well are volunteers from the congregation.

If interested in becoming involved, please email Patrick (music@sjuccf.org) or call him at the church, ext. 13. From the youngest to oldest members of our congregation, please consider becoming involved in this wonderful ministry for the church!

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 stationary 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!**”

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3 – AUGUST 10**

Sun 8/3	9:30 am	Worship
Mon 8/4	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
Tues 8/5	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
	7:00 pm	Iron Pigs
Wed 8/6	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group

	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 8/7	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
Fri 8/8	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
Sat 8/9	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 8/10	9:30 am	Worship

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