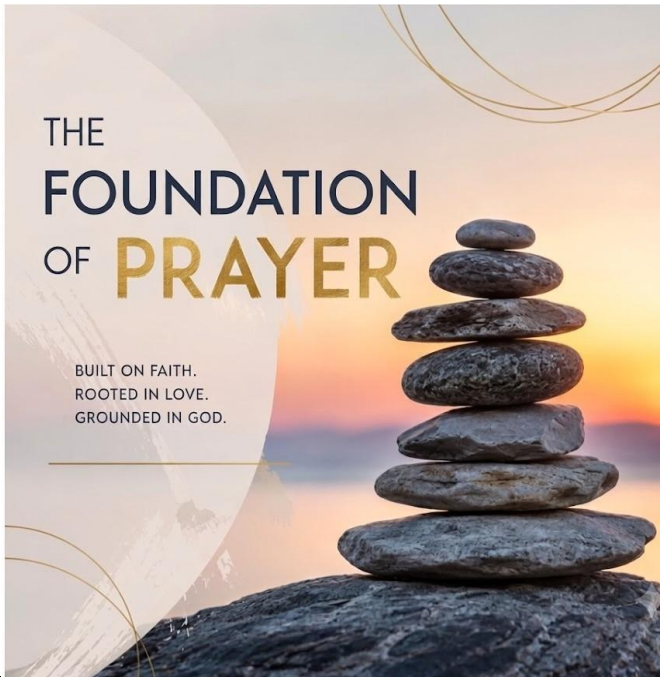


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

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 and connection time, to visit, make new friends, and build relationships. Our kitchen leaders and volunteers take a break during the summer months and we resume on September 6.

A WORD OF THANKS

To the Jordan Spring Bluegrass for sharing their time and talent with the St. John's congregation.

Jordan Spring Bluegrass Band:

Regi Mohr - fiddle; Richard Bernardin - mandolin;

Dennis Schuler - banjo; Gregg Fisher - guitar

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

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

*Just A Closer Walk
Traditional*

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Jean Fennell

One: When the storms of life surround us and the chaotic waves threaten to pull us under,

All: We listen for the voice of the Savior, saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

One: When we feel abandoned, overwhelmed, or cast into the pit of despair,

All: We remember the wondrous works of God, whose saving love reaches into the deepest darkness.

One: The word of faith is near you, on your lips and in your heart.
All: **For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Let us worship God!**

***Opening Hymn** *Keep on the Sunny Side of Life*
Please join in singing the Chorus

Chorus: Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life.
It will help us every day, it will brighten all our way,
if we keep on the sunny side of life.

Invitation and Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Jean Fennell

One: My friends in Christ, even when Jesus is right before us, the wind and the waves of this world distract us. We take our eyes off the Lord, we harbor jealousy in our hearts, and we begin to sink. Trusting in God's boundless mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

All: **Gracious and Loving God, we confess that we are easily terrified by the storms of this life. Forgive us, Lord. When our faith is little, reach out your mighty hand and catch us. Calm the winds of our anxieties, wash away our resentments, and help us to truly believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that you are Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness Liturgist: Jean Fennell

One: Hear the good news! Even when our faith falters, Christ does not let us drown. He reaches out his hand, pulls us into the safety of his grace, and calms the storm. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, loved, and redeemed.

All: **In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message Rev. Steve Davis and Samantha Kistler

Hymn

I'll Fly Away

Verse 1: Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away!
To a home on God's celestial shore: I'll fly away!

Refrain: I'll fly away, oh Glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, Hallelujah! By and by, I'll fly away.

Verse 2: When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away!
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. *(To Refrain)*

Verse 3: Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away!
To lead on where joy shall never end: I'll fly away. *(To Refrain)*

*Scripture Reading

Read by Kay Chryst

Psalm 85: 8-13

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

**The Foundation of Prayer: The Posture of Prayer
Stepping Out in Faith**

Hymn

One Life

Ronnie Bowmen, David Via

***Verse 1:** Never claimed to have much money, no mansion do I own. There are those who criticize me, but at least I'm not alone. 'Cause I've got friends and all my family, and they love me for who I am, not what I'll be. There are those who curse the losers, even the winners, but they can't see..*

***Refrain:** We only have One Life, let someone live it. Why don't we give up intolerant ways? We only have one world, and others live in it. Why don't we give up instead of hate?*

***Verse 2:** No one knows all the answers, we're still searching to find the way. I'm not worried about tomorrow, 'cause I've got all I can handle today. I don't need to judge my brother. Let's just love 'em for who they are, not what they'll be. I know some despise the weaker, and hate the stronger, but as for me, (To Refrain)*

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Steve Davis
and 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.**

Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings to God



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

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Jean Fennell

All: God of abundant grace, as the scriptures declare, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Use our offerings, our resources, and our very lives to be that good news to a hurting world. In the holy name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

I Saw the Light

Please join in singing the Chorus

Chorus: I saw the Light, I saw the Light.
No more darkness, no more night.
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.
Praise the Lord, I saw the Light

*Benediction

Rev. Steve Davis

*Postlude

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am 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: August 2

Onsite: 89 Online: 45 Total: 134

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 9

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15 and Matthew 14:22-33

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Jean Fennell

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Scripture: Kay Chryst

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 16

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 and Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Ushers: Charlotte Kerrigan and Corrina Purdon

Scripture: Dewey Yeatts

Greeter: Corrina and Jeff Purdon

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, Ronald 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.

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're 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.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We congratulate Rev. Bob Stevens on the 48th anniversary of his ordination, which took place on August 11, 1978.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of August, we're collecting **pancake syrup, jelly, and coffee**. Any other food donations, as well as monetary donations, are always welcome. Your donations can be placed in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. 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, & 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 receipts from Redner's and the church receives 1% back. A collection jar for the receipts is on the table in the lounge area or see Karen Stoitsits. **Please do not roll the Redner's receipts and do not include receipts from other stores.**

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.

COLLECTING ITEMS FOR BAZAAR

While the Bazaar isn't until November, we are beginning 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.**

PEEPS MEETING

The Lady PEEPS (Positive Extraordinary Encouraging Prayerful Sisters) will meet on **Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm** in Fox Hall. Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith will be the guest speaker. You can contact Regina Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

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

THIS IS YOUR 9 DAY WARNING!!!!

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

 **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 6:00 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) either through email: Music@sjuccf.org or through
Phone: (484) 241-0250**

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.

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
Shope, Slatington;

St. John's UCC, Fullerton;

St. John's UCC Laury's Station;

Union Lutheran, Schnecksville;

Union UCC, Neffs;

AND YOU!

CHURCH CALENDAR—AUGUST 9 – 16

Sun 8/9	9:30 am	Worship (Bluegrass Service) Newsletter Deadline
Tue 8/11	1:00 pm 6:45 pm	Staff Meeting IronPigs
Wed 8/12	12:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Painting Group Painting Group Zumba SAA Recovery Group
Sat 8/15	9:30 am 6:45 pm	Zumba IronPigs
Sun 8/16	9:30 am 4:00 pm	Worship UCC Picnic at Union UCC, Neffs

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	Samara “Sam” Bush 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 iron1on1@verizon.net
St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254