## 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!

## **WORLD AIDS DAY**

**December 1, 2024** 

First Sunday of Advent 9:30 am

# We Worship

#### Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation of the Penn NE Conference 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. Join us in Fox Hall following worship each Sunday, hosted by various congregants and groups.

Children's Faith Formation begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

Children and Holy Communion — We strongly encourage children to have the experience of participating in the sacrament of holy communion in the context of worship. We also know this is a personal spiritual matter parents may want to have their children receive upon Confirmation. ALL are welcome to receive at St. John's. On Communion Sundays, children in our Faith Formation activities will return to the sanctuary to be joined with their parents for this part of the service, whether they receive or not, so they may begin to grow in their understanding of these sacred moments in worship.

\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand

#### Chimes

#### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Visitation Committee Gift Bags
- Mission Moment: Clean-Up Buckets / Mitten Tree
- Expanding Our Welcome Pre-Service Hospitality
- Advent/Christmas Poinsettia Orders due Today
- Movie Night Dec. 7, 6:00pm, Soup & Bread
- SAVE THE DATE Dec. 22, 6:00pm Service of the Nativity

## \*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

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

New Hymn for Advent

\*Call to Worship Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will cause a righteous branch to spring forth and bring my promised salvation to Israel."

All: The Lord is our righteousness.

One: "The days are surely coming," says our God, "when justice and mercy will be executed throughout the land."

All: The Lord is our hope and strength.

One: "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when my promised one will teach transgressors my ways, and heal the world with love and mercy."

All: Let us worship the one who is to come.

\*Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

One: Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

All: God of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

One: Advent is a time of self-examination.

All: God of Light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

One: Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

All: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

One: Advent is a time of service and searching.

All: God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.

(continues on page 4 of the bulletin)

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153



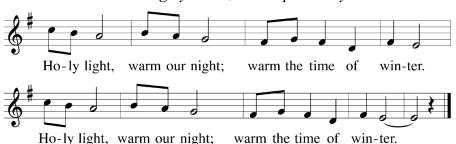
WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) 8.7.8.7.D.

One: Today, we light the first candle—the candle of hope—reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and children's children.

All: When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle Response**

First time sung by Choir, then repeated by all

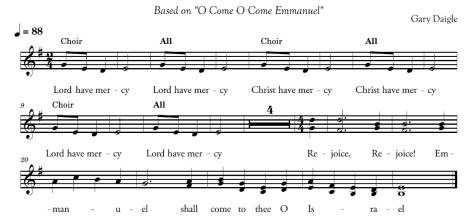


Prayer of Confession and Response Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts
One: In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as a comfort and as our savior.

So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God. So then, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer, then Sung Response and Unison Prayer)

## Advent Call to Confession



All: Holy God, our hearts are breaking, and we don't know whether to shout in rage or keep silent in fear. Help us. Mend our hearts. Hear our voices. Comfort us in our grief, and open our hands so that we will share in our sorrow and joy, in our hope and despair. Come to us again, we pray, and make us ready to receive you. Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness** 

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Friends, hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, and freed to love and serve.

All: Through your hope O God, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn Verses 1 and 2

found on page 6 of the bulletin

#### Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn 1. A - wake! For a - wake, and greet the new morn, 2. To to all in sor - row and fear, Em us,



take heart

his

com - ing shall

gels her - ald its dawn-ing, man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, de - spair - ing, the world is dark win - ter and cheer-less. the

est night

re - joice,

3. In

dark 4. Re - joice,

> Sing out your joy, for His hum - ble song is As morn - ing light SO The ris - ing sun shall

When

Though

be,

in the night,



Be - hold! the Child of our soon he is born, long - ing. Yet fills the earth with its qui et and near, ring - ing; et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing. crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



all hearts by weak and poor, To bring ba Mu - sic to the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov heal ing Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less



He the heav'n - ly geth - er, O pens wide door And The thun der of To kind - ness. his an - thems roll won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And May God sto - ry, fill ev 'ry day share, And



side lives now in us for ev er. shat - ter all ha - tred and blind ness. weap - ons be bro - ken a sun der. bring us at last in - to glo ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE, 9 8 9 8 8 7 8 9; Marty Haugen, b.1950 © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

### \*Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Scripture Reader: Barbara Seeds

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** Rev. Steve Davis

Advent Through the Movies "Christmas Chronicles" (Hope)



**Song of Praise** 

There

No Night

D. Forrest

Words for the anthem can be found on page 12

## We Love

## Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

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**

Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.

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!

Each year on December 1, we come together for World AIDS Day to honor those we've lost and stand with those still living with HIV and AIDS. While we have come a long way in the fight against AIDS, our work is far from over. Let us support and honor the legacies of those who are no longer with us and end the stigma, building a better future for all who still need us.



#### The Invitation to Receive

One: Here in this place we meet in joy and sorrow, our hearts and minds with memories are filled. We fear to face our emptiness tomorrow, when thoughts are sad and many tears are spilled.

All: And yet we know, Lord, you have told us clearly, that where we are, there also you will be. You came to bring a hope of life eternal, a promise of a future joy we cannot see.

One: Here in this place, we gather in thanksgiving, for all we shared, the joyful days gone by; for those we love, our chosen life's companions, and those who care and hold us when we cry.

All: Lord, we know that you will take the future, that you will walk beside us in the way, to take us on, to make a new beginning, to comfort, guide and keep us as we face each day.

#### **Words of Institution and Consecration**

## **Sharing the Meal**

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

## **Music During Communion**

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Introduction, Verse 1 and 2 as element of bread is received.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

Instrumental, Verse 3 as element of wine/juice is received.

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

All: Amen

Instrumental, Verse 4 as the elements are returned to the table.

found on page 10 of the bulletin

## 154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Page | 10

MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

All: Joyous God, Originator of all Gifts, this day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. Amen.

## Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



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

\*Doxology

A Doxology for Advent/Christmas Based on "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

All: Holy God of new beginnings, as we share our offerings with you, we are filled with hope. We enter the season of Advent with expectation; we have left behind us a time of fear, isolation, and uncertainty; and we raise our heads because we know our redemption is near. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

## We Serve

## \*Sending Hymn

Soon and Very Soon All Verses

found on page 13 of the bulletin

\*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

#### **Postlude**

### 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.

## Song of Praise: No Night There by Dan Forrest

God is with us; God is for us; do not be afraid.

No night there, No crying there, God shall wipe away ev'ry tear, ev'ry tear from their eyes. There shall be no night there, No crying there, God shall wipe away, away ev'ry tear; ev'ry tear from their eyes.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us, I will fear no evil; God is for us. Lo, I am with you always even to the end, God is for us, I am with you to the end.

There shall be No night there. There shall be No crying there, God shall wipe away ev'ry tear, ev'ry tear from their eyes.

No night there, there shall be No crying there, God shall wipe away ev'ry tear, ev'ry tear from their eyes. Do not be afraid, Do not be afraid. God is with us, God is for us, No night there.

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Attendance - November 24

Onsite – 80 Online – 33



This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Did you know? You can sponsor Sunday bulletins for \$20 and altar flowers for \$25 (one vase). The monthly newsletter can be sponsored for \$100.

#### **Bulletins**

The bulletins for the First Sunday in Advent are sponsored in honor of daughter and granddaughter Alyssa Amaral by Robert and LeeAnn Lopez and Nancy Keister and Christopher Amaral.

## **Lectionary Readings for the First Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

## **December 1st, 2024 (First Sunday of Advent)**

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts Scripture Reader: Barbara Seeds Worship Tech: Bill Castello Acolyte: Lucas Williams

Greeters and Ushers: Wayne Lichtenwalner, Wendy Fox,

Kim Hillegass, Kathy Roth, Kirby Hower

Social Hour: Colleen Kulhamer

## December 8st, 2024 (Second Sunday of Advent)

Liturgist: Women's Retreat
Worship Tech: Bill Castello
Scripture Reader: Women's Retreat
Acolyte: Nicholas Santee

Greeters and Ushers: Women's Retreat

Social Hour: Colleen Kulhamer, Women's Retreat

#### 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, Linda Apple, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Rick Borgman, Ginny Brokenshire, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Joshua Davis (Steve and Bill's grandson), Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Tracey Glass, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Jean Litzenberger, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Leona Snyder, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

We pray for the family of Michael Bold, son of Bob Bold and sister of Judy Boyd Doyle, who died on November 27.

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.

#### 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE

What is the deadline for 2024 contributions? Members can make their 2024 contributions count for the current year through December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you would like your contributions to count for the 2024 tax year, please ensure they are received in the office or offering plate no later than <u>Sunday</u>, <u>December 29</u>, 2024. All contributions received after Sunday, <u>December 29</u>, 2024, will be counted towards 2025.

#### WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S

It's a simple thing to do! Buy Giant & Weis gift cards, and the church receives 5% back. Save the register tapes from Redner's, and the church receives 1% back. Cards can also be used to purchase gas as well. Get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday before or after worship. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area.

#### WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Monetary contributions and food donations are always welcome. For more information or to volunteer on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

#### INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or <a href="https://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter">www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter</a>

#### **VISITATION**

The Visitation Committee has moved its meeting day to the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 9:30am, in Rm 201. If you would like to participate in this ministry of caring through cards, calls, or personal visits, we

invite you to come see what it's all about and how you can help. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Steve for more information.

#### HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

Hurricanes Helene and Milton have caused significant devastation, impacting countless lives and communities. In response to this disaster, The Mission Committee and the Confirmation Class are asking for your support to UCC Disaster Ministries and Church World Service. Along with 3 other churches, we are collecting items for CWS's Emergency Cleanup Buckets. St. John's is responsible for collecting the following specific items which are on display in the lounge area:

- 1. 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (if used, please scrub clean). No buckets that held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid.
- 2. Scrub brush with or without a handle.
- 3. 6-9 oz. bottle of <u>non-aerosol</u> insect repellent. Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes are also acceptable.
- 4. Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves. Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple- use.

Monetary donations are also being accepted with funds going to UCC Disaster Ministries Hurricane Relief. Checks should be payable to St. John's with Hurricane 2024 in memo section.

#### **SAVEAROUND 2025 BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!**

This Lehigh Valley book contains hundreds of buy one get one free, 50% off, plus many more discount offers and includes a 12-month Savings App with over 400,000 additional local and national offers...save on the go! Whether you are shopping for food, clothing, sporting goods, shoes, fun recreation, reliable services, hotels, or car rentals, SaveAround Coupon Books makes life more affordable and helps us raise much needed funds for our church! Cost is \$25 per book. See Carol Raszler before or after worship.

### **FAMILY FUN & MOVIE NIGHT**

Christmas activities begin early at St. John's as we present a Family Fun & Movie Night on **Saturday, December 7, in Fox Hall**. A choice of several soups and breads are on the dinner menu starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by the movie "**Polar Express**" an animated film starring Tom Hanks. The movie has wonderful messages about the importance of Page | 16

believing, the value of friendship, respect for leadership and courage, and the beauty of being kind to others. We suggest you bring comfortable lawn chairs to watch the move. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office to let us know the number of people coming and if you are willing to bring an item for the meal.

#### HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE AT ST. JOHN'S

A vast selection of crafts by our own "Keeping You in Stitches" crafters are available for sale in the lounge area on Sundays, December 1 and December 8. You can select from kitchen and household furnishings, baby or children's items, thank-you or birthday gifts, and Christmas decorations. Be sure to see Carol Raszler before or after worship to make your purchases.

#### SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY

Mark your calendars! Please plan on joining us on **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** as St. John's will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Service of the Nativity, with music beginning at 5:45PM and service beginning at 6PM. This is a beautiful service centered on our spiritual journey through the season of Advent and bringing us to the story of nativity. A freewill offering will be taken on behalf of St. John's Music Ministry, in addition to light refreshments being served in Fox Hall immediately following the service.

## **QUIET CHRISTMAS**

Asbury UM Church will hold a Quiet Christmas service on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Quiet Christmas is a service to experience God's hope, peace and healing in the midst of grief, relationship/job loss or other life transitions or world events that weigh us down. Led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries, the service will include hymns and special music, scripture and reflection, prayers and candle lighting. All are welcome. Asbury is located at 1533 Springhouse Rd. Allentown.

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 1 – DEC 8

Sun 12/1	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship, First Sunday of Advent
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Craft sale
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Tues 12/3	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
Wed 12/4	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARS
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 12/5	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 12/7	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
	6:00 pm	Dinner and Movie Night
Sun 12/8	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Advent
	9:30 am	Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Craft sale
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter deadline

#### **OUR STAFF**

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