

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



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

**February 11, 2024  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Transfiguration Sunday  
9:30am**

# We Worship

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

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

*We are a place where love can grow!*

*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 is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.*

## **Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

*Dream, Close Your Eyes and Dream*

*As the Water Falls*

Arr. by James Michael Stevens

## **Chimes**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Lenten Soup & Bread Hosts Needed – see red display stand
- Ash Wednesday 8-9am / 4-5pm “Ash & Dash”  
6pm Dinner in Fox Hall / 7pm Worship in the Sanctuary
- Lehigh University Choirs Concert — March 3, 3pm
- BINGO – March 15

## **\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**\*Call to Worship** Liturgists: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

One: In the midst of our darkness, Jesus brings holy light!

**All: Pierce our darkness; scatter the shadows of doubt and fear! Bring us your light, O Lord.**

One: We seek the light but have long lived in the darkness.  
Bring your light, O Lord.

**All: Help us be ready to receive that light!**

One: Come to the shining presence of Jesus.  
Receive healing and hope.

**All: Lord, our lives are ablaze with your love and healing power. Praise be to you, O Christ! Amen**

**\*Opening Hymn** *God Is Here!*

Verses 1, 2, and 4

*found on page 3 of the bulletin*

**\*Gathering Prayer** Liturgists: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

One: The darkness of winter has been our companion, Lord.  
Now the days are lengthening.

**All: Bring your light to us, that we might see your glory and may work with you, offering hope and peace to this world. We ask this, in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Call to Confession** Liturgists: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

One: Mighty One of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, do not be silent, but speak, that we may hear.

**All: Speak justice, that we may correct our lawlessness.  
Speak righteousness, that we may know your ways.  
Speak compassion, that we may know your mercy.  
Speak abundance, that we may serve others.  
Speak understanding, that we may be peacemakers.  
Speak glory, that we may know your Son.  
Speak, and we will listen to you.**

(Continued on Page 4)

# God Is Here! As We His People



1. God is here! As we his peo - ple, Meet to  
2. Here are sym - bols re - mind us Of our  
3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the  
4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, In an



of - fer praise and prayer, May we find in ful - ler  
life - long need of grace; Here are ta - ble, font and  
Shep - herd's flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are  
age of change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the



meas - ure What it is in Christ we share:  
pul - pit, Here the cross has cen - tral place:  
tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old:  
gos - pel, Help us work your pur - pose out:



Here, as in the world a - round us, All our  
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, Here in  
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant Seek in  
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, All we



var - ied skills and arts Wait the com - ing  
si - lence as in speech, Here in new - ness  
wor - ship to ex - plore What it means in  
have to give, re - ceive; We who can - not



of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
and re - new - al God the Spir - it comes to each.  
dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.  
live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, © 1979, Hope Publishing Co.  
Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, 8 7 8 7 D; Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991, © 1942, 1970, Hope Publishing Co.

One: You promise forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace when we speak our shortcomings.

**All: We speak of mistakes we have made.  
We speak of abandoning your ways.  
We speak of failures to show compassion and mercy.  
We speak of our need for forgiveness.**

One: Mighty One of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,

**All: Hear our prayer and lead us into fullness of life. Amen**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness** Liturgists: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

One: God will not keep silent but will gather us in with the tender words: "You are forgiven."

**All: We have been blessed by God to be witnesses; to proclaim God's love to all. Thanks be to God! Amen**

**Children's Message**

Rev. Davis

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

**\*Hymn**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 5 and 6 of the bulletin*

**\*Scripture Reading**

*2 Kings 2:1-12*

Scripture Reader: Janet Ebert

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

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sung Response**

**Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you;**

**We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steve Davis

**What's Next?**

**Anthem**

*Canon of Praise*

Pachelbel/H. Hopson

# 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Capo 2: (G) (C) (G) (D) (G)  
A D A E A

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the  
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the  
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D)  
D A E D E

midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the  
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may  
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)  
C#m7 F#m7 D E C#m7

World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now  
en - ter your bright - ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my  
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your

(Em7) (F) (Dsus)(D) (F) (Dsus)(D)  
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E

bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.  
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.  
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

While the reference to Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) can be understood generally, this hymn is perhaps best understood as a response to the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8/Mark 9:2-8/Luke 9:28-36). This is the most popular of the author/composer's many songs.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (Am/G) (F) (D7sus) (D7)  
 A E F#m D A Bm Bm/A G E7sus E7

Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
 A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 A E F#m D A Bm E7 A

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

# We Love

## Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

Holy God, you have revealed the glory of your love in Jesus Christ, and have given us a share in your Spirit. May we who listen to Christ follow faithfully, and, in the dark places where you send us, reveal the light of your gospel. O God, as your Son drew apart to be in prayer with you, we offer our prayers for the transformation of the world and the church. Hear us as we pray...

*Prayers of the people, concluding with:*

You revealed your glory and presence in your beloved Son, Jesus the Christ. In receiving our prayers, reveal the glory and presence of your Spirit alive in the world today, free us from all doubts, and empower us to act in your love and grace. All of this we pray in your many names, who taught us to pray...

## 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**

## 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

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host:**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgists: Melissa and Ryan Szoke

**All: Gracious God, just as Peter, James, and John witnessed the radiant presence of Christ, we, too, are transformed by your love and grace. As we offer our gifts today, may they reflect the warming light of your love in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen**





## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **February 11**

Liturgists – Melissa and Ryan Szoke      Scripture Reader – Janet Ebert  
Ushers – Carole O’Connell, Marion DeMilio  
Acolyte – Sophia Pagan      Worship Tech – Elijah Fox  
Social Hour Hosts – Nancy Bowman and Carol Raszler

### **February 14 – Ash Wednesday**

Liturgist - Open      Scripture Reader - Open  
Usher – Zach Szoke      Worship Tech – Bill Castello  
Acolyte - Open

### **February 18**

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman      Scripture Reader – Zach Szoke  
Ushers – Staci Pagan, Sophia Pagan      Worship Tech – Bill Castello  
Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk  
Social Hour Hosts – The Borgman family

## **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, Clarence Biehn, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Geraldine Keim, David and Grace Mohr, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio and Kaden Rossanese.

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**. If you have someone to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

## **ST. JOHN’S SPONSORSHIP**

Sponsorship for 2024 is now available for anyone wishing to sponsor the following: Altar flowers are \$25.00 a vase, Bulletins are \$20, Wheat Basket, where the donation will go to the Food Pantry, is \$15,

and the monthly newsletter is \$100.00. Please contact the church office for additional information or to sign up!

### **“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING”**

With all the excitement and spending associated with football’s Super Bowl, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. The “Souper Bowl of Caring” initiative started back in 1990 and has generated more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the country. **For the entire month of February, we will be collecting all kinds of canned soups.** We particularly request everyone to bring a can of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11. Our Confirmation Class will be on hand with soup pots after worship if you would like to give a monetary donation.

### **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

For February, we will be collecting cans of soup for the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Looking ahead to Easter, donations of canned fruit, canned vegetables, and canned sweet potatoes are needed. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your food donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by online or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black at 484-274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com).

### **GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR ISRAEL–HAMAS WAR**

It has been more than 100 days since the start of the war. Already it is the longest and deadliest conflict between Israel and Palestine since Israel’s establishment in 1948 and the deadliest for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Palestinians, seeking refuge in southern Gaza, say every day has become a struggle to find shelter, food, water, medicine, and working bathrooms. All the while, people live in fear of airstrikes and the growing threat of illnesses. The war has rippled across the entire Middle East, threatening to escalate into a broader conflict. Contributions can be made to UCC National, who along with our global partners, continue to provide help for those affected by the war. Envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge. Be sure to

put “Middle East Support” in the memo section of your checks or with online or text giving.

### **NEWS FROM OUR CRAFTERS**

Our Women’s Group Church Cookbook is now on sale for \$5.00. Look for our Easter & Spring Craft Sale on March 10 and March 17 in the lounge before and after worship.

### **BINGO!**

St. John’s first Gift Card Bingo of 2024 will be held on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are now available, see Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer. You can help make this event another success by donating:

- Hot Dogs (Beef)
- Hot dog and Hamburger rolls
- A carton of Sprite (Regular or Diet)
- Box of small bags of snacks (chips, popcorn, etc.)
- A crockpot of Perogie Casserole (Any recipe)
- Items for “Tricky Tray” table. These can be gift cards or baskets or anything worth around \$20 to \$30.
- Sponsor a game for \$50 and your name gets in the program
- Your help and assistance that night.

Please contact Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler if you are able to donate any of these items. Thanks for your help. Don’t forget to get your tickets early!

### **GIANT & WEIS GROCERY CARDS**

Giant and Weis grocery gift cards can be purchased here at St. John’s. By doing so, you contribute 5% back to St. John’s. They come in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100. The gift cards can also be used to purchase gas. Look for Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler in the lounge area on Sunday or check with the church office during the week to make your purchases.

### **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](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or 610-428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, February 27.**

### **REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE**

Thanks to all of you who bring in receipts from Redner's. They do have some guidelines we need to follow. The whole receipt, and it needs to say Save-A-Tape. If you are not a member of Redner's Save-A-Tape program, please join – then make sure you use your customer card as you check out. If you use a charge card and do not want any numbers to show on the receipt, you can black them out. Thanks for your support.

### **BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are looking for donations of baskets for our annual basket social on May 4 & May 5. Basket ideas could include the following themes: entertainment (movie, concert, parks), chocolates, children's games/toys, puzzles, books, sports, camping, linens, drinks, plants, beverages, snacks, baking, restaurant/grocery gift cards, baby items, picnic, pet supplies, gardening, car care, etc. The list is endless. We now have space available to store your basket so please get started. Be sure include a tag listing the items in your basket. If you would like to make a monetary donation, our team will be glad to make a basket for you. Please see Amy Feidler, Mike Borgman, or Carol Raszler if you have any questions.

### **PRESCHOOL TEACHER SUBSTITUTE WANTED**

St John's UCC CELC is hiring for an on-call teacher's assistant. We are looking for someone who can cover sick days, summer camps and vacations. For more information, please contact Jazmin Smith at [staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com](mailto:staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com).



**Weekly  
Lenten Prayer Gatherings**

**Wednesdays  
12:00—12:30 pm  
Feb. 21—Mar. 20**

**For the link to these Weekly Lenten Prayer Gatherings, led by PA UCC Conference Ministers and UCC Staff Members, please contact the church office.**



**4 Conference Lenten Study  
Looking Back to  
Look Forward**

The Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ cordially invite you to participate in this virtual Lenten opportunity! Meeting each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, this Bible Study explores the foundations of our identity as Christians and members of the UCC as we explore what the future may hold! Each week is unique so if you cannot attend every date you can still participate in as many as you are able. **If you have any questions, or you would like to participate in this study, please email [pattyr@pnec.org](mailto:pattyr@pnec.org) to receive the link.** Thank you!

**February 21:** Unity and Foundation

**February 28:** United Church of Christ

**March 6:** Lent in Context

**March 13:** The Priesthood of All Believers

**March 20:** Communion

## Church Calendar for the Week of Feb 11 through Feb 18

Sun 2/11	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline Souper Bowl of Caring Kickoff
Mon 2/12	6:00 pm	“Fun” Raising
Tues 2/13	10:30 am	Visitation
	1:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 2/14	8:00 am	Ash and Dash
	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	4:00 pm	Ash and Dash
	6:00 pm	Soup supper
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday service
	7:00 pm	SAA
Thurs 2/15	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sun 2/18	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis <a href="mailto:srpastor@sjucf.org">srpastor@sjucf.org</a>
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