

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!***

**February 18, 2024
1st Sunday in Lent
9:30 am**

We Worship

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.*

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

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Patrick Sandt

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
- Lehigh University Choirs Concert — March 3, 3pm
- BINGO – March 15 – Tickets on sale now! Volunteers needed
- Easter Egg Hunt – March 23, Saturday, 12-3pm

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

Based on Psalm 25

One: We trust in you, O God, for you are faithful.

All: Show us your ways and teach us your paths.

One: We wait for you.

All: Lead us in your paths of truth.

One: Do not remember our failures.

All: Out of your merciful grace, forgive us.

One: You are faithful, O God. Your love is steadfast.

All: We lift up our souls to you and praise you always.

***Opening Hymn**

Our Father, We Have Wandered

Verses 1 and 3

found on page 3 of bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

All: Faithful God, you called all creatures into being, and you care for each one. Send your grace upon your people gathered here, that we may follow your ways of truth, and walk in the paths of steadfast love, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: God of the rainbow, you made covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope. God of the paths, you show us how we should walk with you.

All: Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe. We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride. Forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

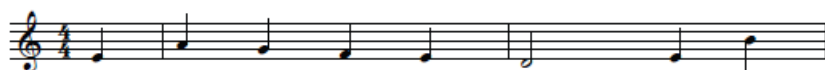
Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

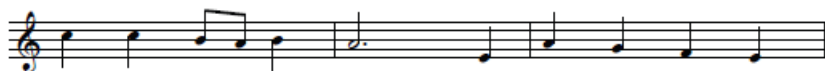
One: God is merciful and full of steadfast love. God will not forget us. God is for us all.

All: God will wash us clean, and lead us on paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. Thanks be to God! Amen

Our Father, We Have Wandered



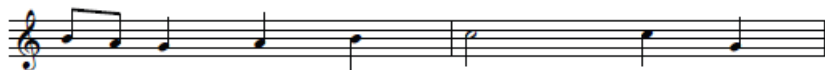
1. Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered And
2. And now at length dis - cem - ing The
3. O Lord of all the liv - ing, Both



hid - den from your face; In fool - ish - ness have
e - vil that we do, Be - hold us, Lord, re -
ban - ished and re - stored, Com - pas - sion - ate, for -



squan - dered Your leg - a - cy of grace. But
tum - ing With hope and trust to you. In
giv - ing, And ev - er - car - ing Lord, Grant



now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, We
haste you come to meet us And
now that our trans - gress - ing, Our



rise with fear and shame, As, dis - tant but com -
home re - joic - ing bring, In glad - ness there to
faith - less - ness may cease. Stretch out your hand in



pell - ing, We hear you call our name.
greet us With calf and robe and ring.
bless - ing, In par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006, © 1980, ICEL

Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 ♯ 7 6 D; Hym: Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn

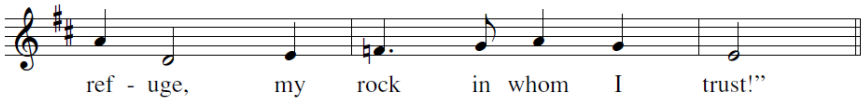
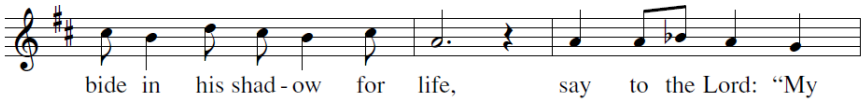
On Eagle's Wings

Verses 1 and 2

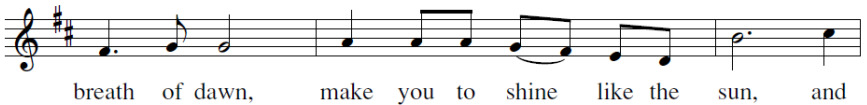
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On Eagle's Wings

Verse 1

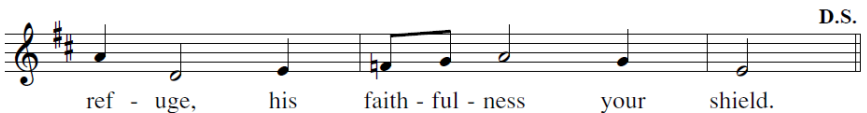


Refrain



Last time to coda \oplus *To verses*

Verse 2



D.S.

***Scripture Reading**

James 1: 17-18

Scripture Reader: Zach Szoke

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

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

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

God Did This for You!

What God Did to Win Our Heart?

Introduction to the Season of Lent

Anthem

To Mock Your Reign

Regi Mohr, Violin

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**

Sung Response

Merciful God

Tony Alonso

$\text{♩} = 88$

Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, Gath - er the long - ing the lost and un-sure

5
Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, name us and claim us as yours!

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 Lenten Doxology

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit whom imparts
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

All: Jesus healed with a touch and taught us that you are the source of the true healing that can make us whole. As we offer our gifts to you, we pray that they might be used to bring healing: of body, of spirit, of broken relationships and healing of a world community that is deeply divided by distrust and self-interest. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Verses 1, 2, and 5

found on page 7 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

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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LENT

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
 5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
 to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.
 for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

Altar Flowers

One vase in honor of granddaughter Rhiannon's graduation from nursing school, by Marion DeMilio

Bulletins

In honor of grandson Dominic's graduation from Army Boot Camp, by Marion DeMilio

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!

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS

Join us on Sunday, March 3rd at 3PM for a special afternoon of music presented by the Lehigh University Choral Arts program under the direction of Steven Samtez. Light refreshments will be served after in Fox Hall. A free will offering will be taken at the door for those wishing to donate to the university's music program. All Are Welcome!

"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.**

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

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.

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.

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.

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.

BINGO!

St. John's first Gift Card Bingo of 2024 will be held on Friday, March 15th. 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!

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, 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 need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following:

Books	Sports	Camping	Picnic	Crafts	Puzzles
Linens	Baby Items	Baking	Beverages	Snacks	Car Care
Entertainment Movie/Parks	Beauty/ Spa Items	Children's Games/ Toys	Restaurant Gift Card	Pet Supplies	Gardening/ Plants

The list of ideas is endless! Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. **We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible.** If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

**Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10.00am to 2:00pm;
Sunday, May 5, 8:00am to 9:30am and 10:30am to 11:30am**

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days.



Lenten Prayer Gatherings

The 4 PA UCC Conference Ministers and UCC Staff Members will lead weekly prayer gatherings during Lent on **Wednesdays from**

12:00-12:30pm. The first prayer time is Wednesday, February 21 and will follow each Wednesday until March 20th.



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 patty@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

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	11,007.58
Overall Percent	48.9%

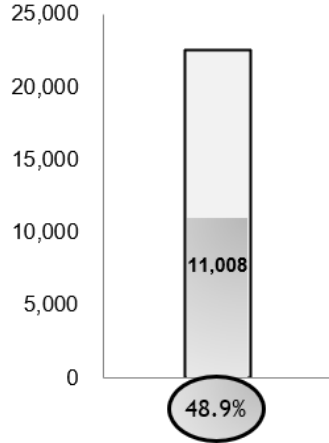
Last Week	
Start:	2/11/24
End:	2/17/24
Total:	4,835.00

Amt needed to reach Target

FEBRUARY 2024	11,492.42
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



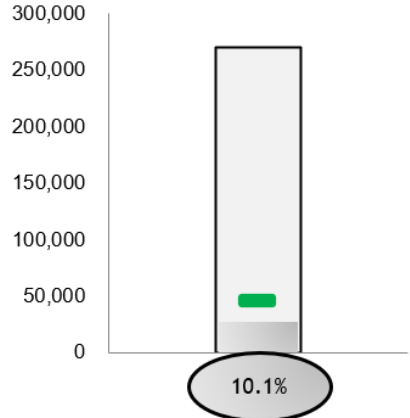
YTD OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	27,143.23
Overall Percent	10.1%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



The furnace loan balance = \$4,609.00.

Church Calendar for the Week of Feb 18 through Feb 25

Sun 2/18	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Mon 2/19	Office Closed - President's Day	
Tues 2/20	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 2/21	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Soup and Devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/22	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 2/24	9:00 am	Zumba
Sun 2/25	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation – Make-up class

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjucf.org
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