

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
9:30am

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

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*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. 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. Parents are asked to accompany their child if they are at the kids' table in the back. On Communion Sundays the children remain in the worship service.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice NC—New Century Hymnal
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Observing Black History Month this February

Black History Month this year is more important than ever. While many in power try to erase the experiences of Black Americans, this month is a reminder: from the beginning, Black Americans have been uniquely oppressed and discriminated against, but despite it all, Black culture has made a mark on American society that can't be removed.

During Black History Month, as we honor those who pushed this nation closer to justice, we pause to remember the life of civil rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson, a movement builder whose life redefined moral leadership in the public square. Rev. Jackson passed away February 17, 2026.

Rev. Jackson's story began in college with a group of young Black students arrested in 1960 for staging a sit-in at a whites-only public library in Greenville, SC. They were teenagers with conviction and backbone. That action helped push the library toward desegregation. It also revealed something about Rev. Jackson that never changed: he was willing to risk comfort for justice.

He stood beside Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, including the turbulent days surrounding Selma and the push for voting rights. After Dr. King's assassination, Rev. Jackson continued to organize.

Through many organizing groups, Rev. Jackson connected civic rights to economic power, pressuring corporations to hire Black workers, demanded economic accountability, and built coalitions that crossed race, class, gender, and faith lines - because access to lunch counters meant little without access to jobs, contracts, and capital.

His presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988 reshaped American politics. He became the first Black candidate to win major-party state primaries and inspired hundreds of thousands of new voters. Those campaigns widened the political imagination of this country and helped cultivate a generation of Black elected leaders.

Rev. Jackson also carried his moral witness beyond U.S. borders, challenging apartheid in South Africa, advocating for Palestinian rights, negotiating the release of captives, and as a diplomatic envoy. He believed faith demanded engagement wherever human dignity was under threat.

Change in this country has always come from organized people pushing against organized systems. Rev. Jackson embodied that truth.

Rev. Jackson said, ***“Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change.”*** Sweat is sacred. It is the late meeting after a long workday. It is gathering thousands of stories from families struggling to afford to live. It is showing up at the ballot box and in the streets and in personal prayer. It is multiracial, multifaith people choosing discipline over despair.

Rev. Jackson's legacy is not just that he moved crowds. It is that he moved systems. The question before us now is simple: will we keep sweating?

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

We are proud to say... “You are... **Welcome Here!**”

Please “check in” on Facebook and “Like” and “Subscribe” to the St. John's YouTube channel and help us share hope in our area.

- Wednesday Evenings in Lent – 6pm Soup & Bread meals signups, and devotional series, Mary's Way of the Cross
- Fun-Raising Opportunities – Hoagies, Pasties, Phantoms Hockey Game, Gift Card Bingo, Joshua Trip and more!
- Souper Bowl of Caring – ends this week.

***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

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: In this season of Lent, we make our way to the cross,

All: **We remember the steps that led Christ there: betrayal and fear, but also trust in God, and love for humanity.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross, we strive to follow Christ's example: to admit betrayal and fear that are part of life,

All: **To embrace trust in God and love for humanity. So, we may make our journey, and let us worship God.**

***Opening Hymn: WR # 252**

*Lord Who Throughout These
Forty Days
Verses 1, 2, and 4*

Lenten Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: God, you are our refuge.

All: **You are the shore in sight, you are hands that reach out, you are the ground on which to rest.**

One: God, you are our strength.

All: **You are the life we long for, you are the refusal to give up, you are the keys of home we carry with us.**

One: God, you are our help in time of trouble.

All: **We call on you from the ruins and the rubble, we call on you from the wildness and the deep, we call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: When we stay silent, when we do not acknowledge what we need to change, we waste away. Our guilt turns into shame

that eats away at us like a poison. God calls us to repent and be healed; let us turn to God, first in Silent Prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

All: We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Us, mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.

Sung Response

Eleison, Have Mercy
Translation: Lord Have Mercy

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

Choir Only $\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$



Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-ri-e e -

10 **ALL**



-le - i-son Have mer - cy, I pray. Ky - ri-e e - le - i-son

15



Ky-rie e - le - i-son Ky-ri-e e - le - i-son Have mer - cy, have

20



mer - cy, I pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: By ourselves, we would be easily controlled by sin and temptation. But God has given us the free gift of grace, and so we are set free to live as disciples who follow Jesus..

All: This is the gift which brings us hope; this is the gift which brings us joy; this is the gift which brings us life. Through Christ's love we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Rev. Davis & Samantha Kistler

*Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.***Hymn: WR # 438***On Eagles Wings*

Verses 1 and 2

Scripture ReadingLuke 4: 1-14*

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

"Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you, and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Samantha Kistler

Steadfast Love: Rescue Me

Song of Praise

Wayfaring Stranger

Arranged by Howard Helvey

Soloist: Rev. Todd Fennell

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, I'm traveling through this world below; There is no sickness, toil nor danger; In that bright world to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there no more to roam; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me. I know my pathway's rough and steep; But golden fields lie out before me. Where weary eyes no more shall weep. I'm going there to see my mother, She said she'd meet me when I come; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I'll soon be free from every trial, This form will rest beneath the sod; I'll drop the cross of self denial, And enter in my home with God. I'm going there to see my Savior, Who shed for me His precious blood; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home. I'm just a going over home.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis &

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Samantha Kistler

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

All: Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

***Sending Hymn: WR # 254** *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley*
Verses 1 and 2

The Benediction Lenten Playlist

Samantha Kistler
How Deep the Father's Love for Us
by Austin Stone Worship Live
(You are free to go when the video in song concludes)

Attendance – February 15

Onsite 75 Online 41

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

Flower Sponsorship

In honor of Mary Jane Ott's 92nd Birthday

By Susan Rarich and Family

First Sunday in Lent, February 22

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters: Aubrey Funches and Constance Arnold

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Wayne Lichtenwalner

Second Sunday in Lent, March 1

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Kay Chryst

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters and Ushers: Robin Brensinger, Janet Boyd, Kay Chryst, Tom

Chryst, Kirby Hower

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, Christina Bach, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bert

Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICES

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Your help is needed in enhancing the beauty of St. John's this Easter by decorating the sanctuary in Easter flowers. To order, please complete an order form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office with payment. **Order forms are due no later than Sunday, March 15th**.

Flowers available for \$12.00

White, Orange, and Yellow Lilies

Tulips and Easter Mums

\$50.00 Chancel Altar Spring Arrangements

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, you are 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.

APPLEBEES BURGERS FOR A CAUSE

Now available! Applebee's burger gift cards are good for any burgers on their menu (Some cost over \$17.00), for the price of \$10 per card. The certificates never expire, and are good at Applebee's in our area. They make great stocking stuffers! See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

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 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.

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Because of the recent snowstorms, we've extended our canned soup drive for "Souper Bowl of Caring" to February 22. Our goal is to receive 250 cans of soup for the food pantry. Any other food donations as well as monetary donations are always welcome. **Please bring your cans of soup and place them on the shelves in the coatroom 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.

PASTIE SALE

These traditional turnovers are made by hand at the Mr. Pastie bakery in Pen Argyl and come frozen. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. We have 13 selections to choose from. Order forms can be found on the table in the lounge area, in the January newsletter, or on the church's website. **Pickup is either Thursday, April 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or on Sunday, April 12, after worship down in Fox Hall.** If you have any questions, see Carol Raszler. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 1.**

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2025

This coupon book, good for all of 2025, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25 per book. A sample copy is on display in the lounge area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase.

HOAGIE FUNDRAISER – Deadline to Order TODAY!

St. John's is excited to kick off our first-ever Hoagie Fundraiser, running January 11th through February 22nd! This is a delicious way to support St John's while enjoying fresh, made-to-order food from Island Expressions. Whether you're grabbing lunch for yourself, feeding the family, or ordering for work, every purchase helps make a difference.

The sign-up sheet for the hoagie fundraiser will be on the red bulletin board in the back of the church with all the other announcements. Payment is due at the time you order the hoagies. Please hand the payment to either Michelle Guntekunst, Amy Feidler, or Brian Strauss.

The last day to order hoagies will be February 22nd. The hoagies will be delivered to the church on March 6th during the day from Island Expressions, and pick-up time is from 4 pm until 7 pm.

PHANTOMS HOCKEY

Hey, St. John's, who is ready for an afternoon on the ice? Do you want to see the Phantoms Hockey team in action? Phantoms are playing WBS Penguins. Location: PPL Center Time: 3pm. Day: Sunday March 8th. Cost: \$28.00 per ticket. Section 121. Come and have a fun afternoon with fellow St. John's Member's!! If you are interested in going please email me your name, phone number, and how many tickets you need. My email address is brianfish2001@yahoo.com. Phone: 610-762-1134, Thanks, Brian Fisher.

SNOW REMOVAL HELP

For those who asked about helping with snow safety, if you would like to make a donation towards snow removal, or purchase Blue Heat ice melt, (which is what we use for our sidewalks and steps), either would be appreciated!

IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH, FOOD, FUN, AND FIREWORKS, PLUS A BASEBALL GAME

Spring training has begun, so it is time to "think spring." St. John's annual outing for the IronPigs party porch will again be on Memorial Day eve, Sunday, May 24, 2026. Tickets cost \$40 for great seats in the party porch, buffet supper, and unlimited soft drinks and water. Fireworks will follow the game.

Please see Tom Moyer to make your reservation. This trip is organized by St. John's "Fun-raising" committee.

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

There are only 8 seats remaining for our bus trip to Lancaster for the Sight & Sound production of "Joshua." Please see Tom Moyer for your reservation. Cost of the trip (including buffet lunch at Yoder's restaurant) is \$150.00.

For those who have paid the \$75 deposit, your remaining balance of \$75 can be paid at any time, since the trip is now definite. Please give payments to Tom Moyer, or send to the Church office.

GIFT CARD BINGO

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

20 Chances to win Gift Cards worth \$50 or more!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TOM MOYER,
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE - \$20 OR \$25 AT THE DOOR**

We are looking for the following donations to help make this evening a success:

Sponsor a game, \$50

Tricky Tray Prize- Something new, or gift cards (\$20-\$30 range)

Hot dogs

Bottled water

Baked goods

JOIN US FOR A GREAT EVENING OF FUN!!



Keystone Conference Open and Affirming

WINTER GATHERING

MARCH 7, 2026

*"NOTHING WILL SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE OF GOD"*

Immanuel United Church of Christ
99 South Waverly Street
Shillington, PA 19607



Join us via zoom
if that works
best for you!

REGISTER NOW

**Email Steve Roush at
scroush2@gmail.com**



DETAILS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

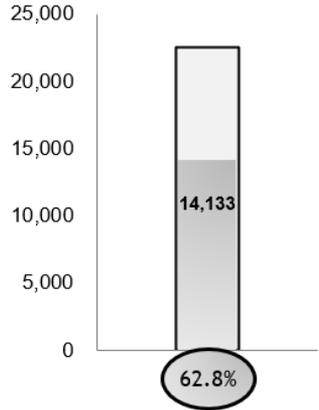
MONTHLY OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,132.92
Overall Percent	62.8%
Last Week	
Start:	2/15/26
End:	2/21/26
Total:	6,564.72
<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
FEBRUARY 2026	8,367.08

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



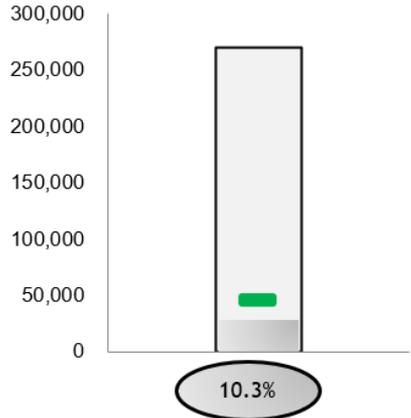
YTD OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	27,939.92
Overall Percent	10.3%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1**

Sun 2/22	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour Hoagie sale Deadline
Mon 2/23	9:00 am	Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Tues 2/24	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 2/25	9:00 am	Verso Chat Lectionary Study
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Dinner and Devotions
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/26	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 2/27	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 2/28	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/1	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children Pastie sale deadline

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	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
Custodian	Geoffrey Jackson geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com
St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254