

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 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in Lent
9:30am**

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

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Arr. by Joel Raney

Bells of St. John

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
- Furnace Loan Fund – Offering Received every 4th Sunday

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: Tom Chryst

One: In this season of Lent, we continue our journey 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:

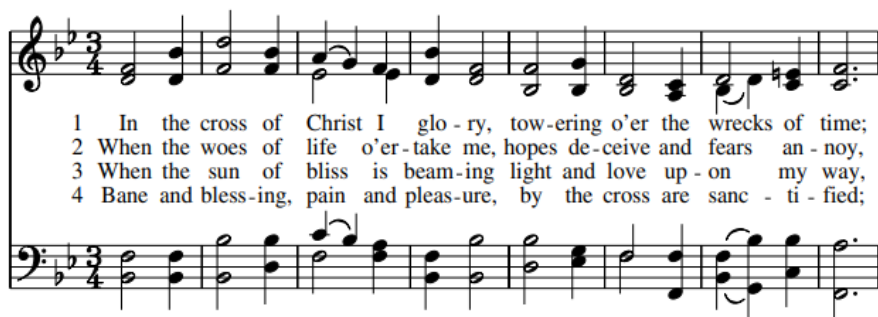
All: To admit that betrayal and fear are part of life, to embrace trust in God and love for humanity. So we may make our journey, and worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

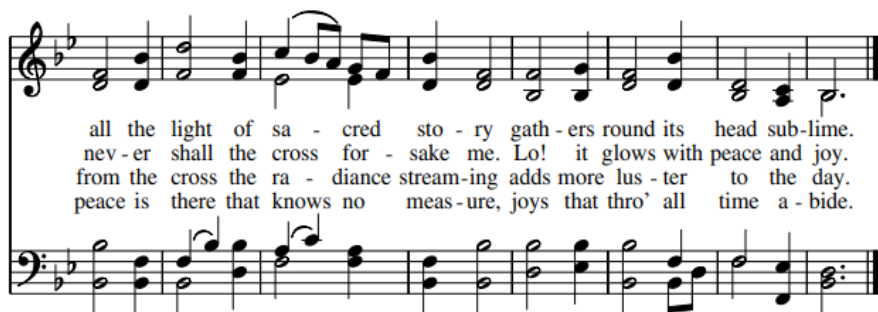
In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Verses 1, 2, and 3

In the Cross of Christ I Glory 264



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering o'er the wrecks of time;
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de - ceive and fears an - noy,
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and love up - on my way,
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and pleas - ure, by the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
from the cross the ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
peace is there that knows no meas - ure, joys that thro' all time a - bide.

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Tom Chryst

All: God of love and peace, this fractured world cries out in pain. It burns deep into our souls and challenges us to make a difference. Soften hearts of stone and begin with ours. Create within us a heart for people, a desire for change, for new beginnings to start this day. Amen.

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Tom Chryst

One: Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires.

All: Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Tom Chryst

One: The journey of discipleship is never easy; but we can be assured that we will not be on this journey alone.

All: Help us Jesus to place our trust in you. May this prayer become a reality as we pray this in your most holy name, Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn*

To Mock Your Reign

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 4 of the bulletin.

To Mock Your Reign

1 To mock your reign, O dear-est Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
 2 In mock ac - claim, O gra-cious Lord, they snatched a pur - ple cloak;
 3 A scep-tered reed, O pa-tient Lord, they thrust in - to your hand,

set you with taunts a - long that road from which no one re - turns.
 your pas - sion turned, for all they cared, in - to a sol - dier's joke.
 and act - ed out their grim cha - rade to its ap - point-ed end.

They could not know, as we do now, how glo - rious is that crown;
 They could not know, as we do now, that though we mer - it blame,
 They could not know, as we do now, though em -pires rise and fall,

that thorns would flower up - on your brow, your sor -rows heal our own.
 you will your robe of mer - cy throw a - round our na - ked shame.
 your king - dom shall not cease to grow till love em - brac - es all.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000); para. Matthew 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20, John 19:1-5
 MUSIC: English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

KINGSFOLD
 C.M.D.

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Scripture Reading*

John 19: 16b-25a

Scripture Reader: Kirby Hower

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

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

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

**God Did This for You!
I Will Give You My Robe**

Anthem

In the Shadow of Your Cross

Lee Dengler

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of the People

Rev. Davis

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Loving God in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the dominion, the power, and the glory are yours, now and
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: Tom Chryst

All: Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of service that gives without cost; we pray for a life overflowing with grace poured out from the One who gave everything that we might show the power of love to a broken world and share the truth from a living Word. This we pray in your Holy name, Amen.

We Serve

Closing Hymn*

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Verses 1, 5, and 6

found on page 7 of the bulletin

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Alternate Melody: Hamburg

Frank Mason North

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. Where cross the crowd-ed_ ways of life, where sound the cries of
2. In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and_ need, on shad-owed thresh - olds
3. From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man griefs and_
4. The cup of wa - ter given for you, still holds the fresh - ness
5. O Sav - ior from the mount - ain_ side, Make haste to heal these
6. Till all shall learn com - pas - sion's might And fol - low where your

7

clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish strife, O Christ, we
framed with_ fears, From paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the
bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows' stress, we know your
of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to view the deep com -
hearts of pain; A - mon these rest - less throngs a - bide, O tread the
feet have trod, Till glor - ious from your realm of light, shall come the

14

hear your voice of grace.
vi - sion of your tears.
heart does not re - coil.
pas - sion of your face.
ci - ty's streets a - gain.
cit - y of our God.

The Benediction*

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Patrick Sandt

*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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Altar Flowers

One vase in honor of Mary Jane Ott's 90th birthday by the Rarich family

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30am Adult Faith Formation

- Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation

- with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

Attendance – February 18

Onsite – 84 Online - 21

Serving in Worship Leadership

February 25

Liturgist – Tom Chryst

Scripture Reader – Kirby Hower

Ushers – Linda and Charlie Apple,

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox

Mike Borgman

Acolyte – Open

Social Hour Host – Susan Rarich

March 3

Liturgist – Open

Scripture Reader – Open

Ushers – Consistory

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour Hosts – Kathy Roth and Melissa Szoke

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

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, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Ray Hower, 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 for us 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!

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!

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.

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 and/or Diet)

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. Each game costs \$50.

Your help and assistance that night.

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

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.

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.

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.**

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.

COFFEE HOUSE EVENT

On Sunday, March 10, 2024, from 4 pm to 6 pm, The Jacksonville Crew, an abled differently group of Christ-loving individuals, is holding an event. All are welcome to this fun evening of Karaoke, games, live entertainment, lots of food, coffee, and an opportunity to socialize and meet new friends. The event is free and open to everyone. Advent is located at 3730 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem.

RSVP by March 5th. Call 610-866-1402 or email:

office@adventmoravianbethlehem.org

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.

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.



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.

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 patty@pniec.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 25 through March 3

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
Tues 2/27	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 2/28	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup and Devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/29	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 3/2	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast – Ham Fam
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/3	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Communion
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
	3:00 pm	Lehigh University Choir Concert

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
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