

# **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 8, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
9:30am**

# 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  
All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted under  
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## **Observing Black History Month this February**

This week marked the beginning of Black History Month. This month is about so much more than t-shirts or slogans. We celebrate the valuable contributions of Black Americans while making space to recognize the oppressive systems and ongoing discrimination that continue to affect underserved communities of color throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

***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.

Throughout history, Black Americans have been targets of violence, ignorance, and lies. In the last decade, we are once again seeing racist and oppressive systems designed to harm our community be propped up by national and state leaders. As the Church, we are demanding change, as leaders, and congregations commit to building a future that works for all.

## Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

We are proud to you 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.

- Ash Wednesday (Lent) February 18, Ash & Dash, 8-9am / 4-5pm with 6pm Soup & Bread meal and 7pm Worship
- 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!

### \*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

*Grace*

Arranged by Erwin Stroobach

Bells of St. John

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: People of God, why are you here?

All: **We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.**

One: People of God, who do you worship?

All: **We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.**

One: People of God, how do you worship?

All: **We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.**

One: People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

All: **May our worship demonstrate God’s glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.**

\*Opening Hymn     *The Works of the Lord are Created in Wisdom*

Verses 1, 2, and 5

*found on page 3*

# The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom



1. The works of the Lord are cre - a - ted in wis - dom!
2. Not e - ven the an - gels have ev - er been grant - ed
3. The sun ev - 'ry morn - ing lights up all cre - a - tion,
4. The wind is his breath and the clouds are his sig - nal,
5. The song is un - fin - ished; how shall we com - plete it,



We view the earth's won - ders and call him to mind;  
To tell the full sto - ry of na - ture and grace;  
The moon marks the rhy - thm of months in their turn;  
The rain and the snow are the robes of his choice;  
And where find the skill to per - fect all his praise?



We hear what he says in the world we dis - cov - er,  
But o - pen to God is all hu - man per - cep - tion,  
The glit - ter - ing stars are ar - rayed in God's hon - or,  
The storm and the light - ning, his stan - dards and her - alds,  
At work in all plac - es, he cares for all peo - ples—



And God shows his glo - ry in all that we find.  
The mys - ter - ies of time and the se - crets of space.  
A - dorn - ing the years as they cease - less - ly burn.  
The crash of the thun - der, the sound of his voice.  
How great is the Lord to the end of all days!

Text: Ecclesiastes 42-43; Christopher Idle, b.1938, © 1982, Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co.)  
Tune: KREMSER, 12 11 12 11; *Kaiser-ländisches Gesangsclerk*, 1626; harm. by Edward Kremser, 1636-1914

## Prayer of Confession and Response Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: Into this sacred space we bring our weights and burdens—  
the things we have done or not done, said or not said.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us lay down those burdens  
before God.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

**All:** God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the Light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your Light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

**Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and renew and make us whole once again with your Spirit, that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.**

**Sung Response**

*Lord Have Mercy*  
Choir, All

## Call to Confession for Epiphany

*Riko Watanabe*

$\text{♩} = 72$   
First time Choir, then All <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>

Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy on us

5 6 7 8

Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy on us.

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

**One:** Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love. Know that our sins have been forgiven. May we be strengthened in all goodness.

**All:** Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Thanks be to God; Amen.

**Children's Message**

Rev. Davis & Samantha Kistler

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

**Hymn: WR 867**

*Eye Has Not Seen*  
Verses 1 and 2

*Isaiah 58: 1-12*

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*Matthew 5:13-20*

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that

I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

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

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

### **Glory Revealed: Call to Action**

**Song of Praise**

*Blessed Are They*  
Lee Dengler

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are all those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for righteousness. They will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are they who make peace, for they shall be children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are they.*

*If for Jesus' sake, people insult you, and persecute you, falsely accuse you, rejoice, be glad; great is your reward which now awaits you in heaven. Blessed are the merciful. Blessed are the pure in heart. Blessed are they who make peace, for they shall be children of God. Blessed are they. Blessed are they. Blessed are they.*

## **We Love**

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People**

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Davis &  
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**

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

**All: Liberating God, receive these gifts we present as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, break chains of injustice, and repair what is broken.**

**May our generosity reflect your mercy. Use these gifts, that light might rise in the darkness and hope take root where despair has reigned. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**



# We Serve

\*Closing Hymn

*Soli Deo Gloria*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

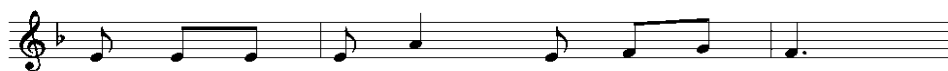
## Soli Deo Gloria



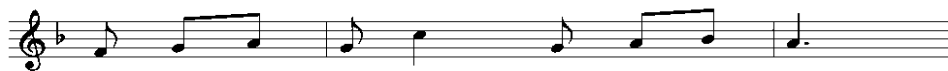
1. O God of bless-ings, all praise to you!
2. All praise for proph-ets, through grace in-spired
3. All praise for mu-sic, deep gift pro-found,
4. All praise for Je-sus, best gift di-vine



Your love sur-rounds us our whole life through.  
To preach and wit-ness with hearts on fire.  
Through hands and voic-es in ho-ly sound:  
Through word and wit-ness, in bread and wine;



You are the free-dom of those op-pressed;  
Your Spir-it choos-es the weak and small  
The psalms of Da-vid, and Mar-y's praise,  
In-car-nate Love Song of bound-less grace,



You are the com-fort of all dis-tressed:  
To sing the new reign where might-y fall;  
In word-less splen-dor and lyr-ic phrase.  
Priest, teach-er, proph-et in time and space,



Come now, O ho-ly and wel-come Guest:  
With them may we live your Gos-pel call:  
With all cre-a-tion one song we raise:  
Your stead-fast kind-ness with hu-man face:



\*So-li De-o gló-ri-a, So-li De-o gló-ri-a!

*\*Glory be to God alone.*

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
Tune: SOLI DEO GLORIA, 99 999 77: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
© 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.

**\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

**Postlude**

*Praises Unending*  
Arranged by Jason Krug

Come Share in our Sunday Social in Fox Hall following worship.

**Attendance – February 1**

Onsite 91    Online – 36

**Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule**

**8:15am Friendship Class**

**9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly**

**10:30am Sunday Social**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, February 8**

**Lectionary Readings**

*Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) and Psalm 112:1-9 (10)*  
*1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) and Matthew 5:13-20*

**Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler                      Scripture Reader: Sharon Czekner  
Worship Tech: Bill Castello                      Altar Guild: Marion DeMilio  
Greeters: Sherri Gangewere, Kim Hillegass  
Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Charlotte Kerrigan

**Transfiguration Sunday, February 15**

**Lectionary Readings**

*Exodus 24:12-18 and Psalm 2 or Psalm 99*  
*2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9*

**Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts                      Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts  
Worship Tech: Bill Castello                      Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan  
Greeters: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon  
Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

**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  
Page | 9

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, 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](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter).

### **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](mailto:estupp@asburylv.org) or 610-428-9095.

### **BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND: "JOSHUA"**

Wednesday, June 3, 2026. Bus leaves St. John's at 8am for 11am show. After the show we will enjoy a lunch buffet at Yoder's restaurant in nearby New Holland, PA. Cost of trip, includes chartered bus, downstairs theater tickets, lunch buffet, and tips is \$150 per person. (Children may be a little cheaper.) Because we need to know how many are interested in this trip, we ask that you make your reservations **ASAP**. Please include a \$75 deposit with each reservation, and give to Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler.

### **PEEPS MEETING**

The Lady PEEPS (Women's Group) will meet on **Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Please contact Regi Mohr at 610-390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto: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**

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 4-7 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](mailto: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!

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

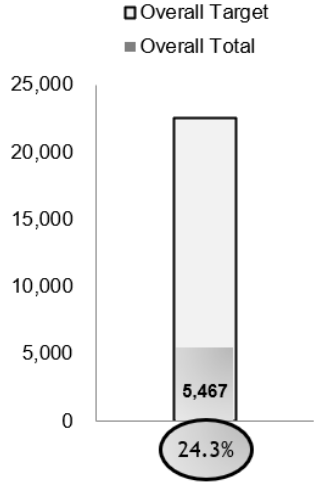
FEBRUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	5,466.70
Overall Percent	24.3%

Last Week	
Start:	2/1/26
End:	2/7/26
Total:	5,466.70

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
FEBRUARY 2026	17,033.30

### Progress

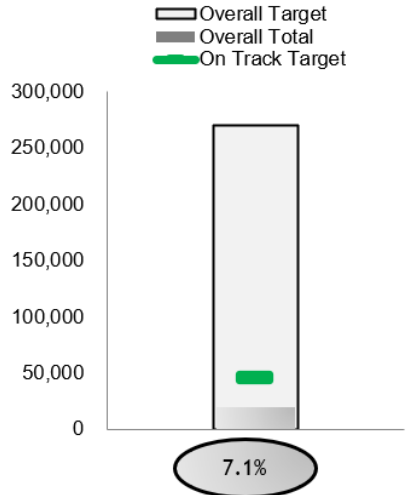


## YTD OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	45,000.00
Overall Total	19,273.70
Overall Percent	7.1%

### Progress



**CHURCH CALENDAR  
FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 15**

Sun 2/8	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour Newsletter deadline
Tues 2/10	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 2/11	9:00 am	Verso Chat Lectionary Study
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/12	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 2/13	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 2/14	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 2/15	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children

## 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

Scammers are busy again – when you receive an email from a member of staff, check that the email is an actual email from the church!