

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!***

January 12, 2025

**Baptism of the Lord
9:30am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Penn NE Conference 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. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.*

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Mission Moment: Clean-Up Buckets
- Expanding Our Welcome – Pre-Service Hospitality
- January 13 – Dine & Donate – Red Robin 11am – 10pm
- January 19 – MLK Jr Sunday and January 20 Day of Service
- January 26 – Healthcare Ministry Sunday
- February 2 – Annual Meeting and Potluck following worship
- 5G Connection New Members Class – attend 2 of 3 sessions
Jan. 22 (2pm), Jan. 26 (11am) and Jan. 29 (7pm)

***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 to Worship

River in Judea

J. Feldman/Arr. by J. Leavitt

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

All: I am with you.

One: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

All: I am with you.

One: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

All: I am with you.

One: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

All: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us!

***Opening Hymn** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Celebration of Baptism Renewal Invitation

Rev. Davis

One: The Body of Christ continues to be renewed and refreshed. As members, we belong to the baptized and covenantal life in Christ. We gather today to affirm our faith and renew our commitments as those who follow Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith


Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

The Apostles' Creed



One: Let us unite in this historic confession of our Christian faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,**



243 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise





1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to you we raise;
 2 God re-vealed at Jor-dan's stream, proph-et, priest and king su-preme;
 3 God re-vealed in val - iant fight, con - quer - ing the dev - il's might;
 4 Stars shall fall and heav - ens fade, sun and moon shall dark be made;


once re-vealed, when heav-en's star brought the wise men from a - far,
 once re-vealed in power di - vine chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 sins for - giv - en, sick - ness healed, life re - stored and God re-vealed:
 Christ will then like light - ning shine, all will see the glo - rious sign;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in your birth at Beth - le - hem,
 Ca - na's ho - ly wed - ding guest keep - ing to the last the best;
 once re-vealed in gra - cious will ev - er bring - ing good from ill,
 all will then the trum - pet hear, all will see the Son ap - pear,

Word be - fore the world be - gan, God re-vealed to us in man.



WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); rev. Jubilate Hymns, 1982

MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

Words Rev. © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

7.7.7.7.D.

**and sitteth at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River
found on page 7 of the bulletin Verse 1

A Modern Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

*(Adapted from a Reading from the Second National Meeting
of United Church of Christ Women)*

One: O God, you are the source of all life and love and being,

All: We call you Creator.

One: Because we know the history of your presence among your
covenanted people and honor their tradition,

All: We call you Lord.

One: Because our Savior, Jesus Christ, your obedient Son, knew
you intimately and spoke of you as a parent,

All: We call you Father.

One: Because you are present in each act of birth and because you
shelter, nurture and care for us,

All: We call you Mother.

One: Because you hold us up and give us strength and courage when
we are weak and in need,

All: We call you Sustainer.

One: Because we have known you in our pain and suffering,

All: We call you Comforter.

One: Because beyond pain lies your promise of all things made
new,

All: We call you Hope.

One: Because you are the means of liberation and the way to
freedom,

All: We call you Deliverer.

Sung Response

Shall We Gather at the River
found on page 7 of the bulletin Verse 2

One: Because you have chosen to come among us and share our common lot, making the hard choices, suffering and dying; because you rose victorious, bringing new life,

All: We call you Redeemer. Confident that you will hear, we call upon you with all the names that make you real to us, the names which create an image in our minds and hearts, an image which our souls can understand and touch. And yet we know that you are more than all of these. Blessing and power, glory and honor be unto you, our loving God. Amen

Sung Response

Shall We Gather at the River
found on page 7 of the bulletin Verse 3

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Rev. Davis

One: Do you believe in the One of Many Names, God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit?

All: We believe in the God of Many Names.

One: Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

All: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

All: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

All: We do, with the help of God.

Prayer for the Renewed in Baptism

Rev. Davis

One: Holy Voice, Body, and Spirit, we give thanks for the gathering of your people into a beloved community of belonging, by water and the Spirit.

All: **By our baptism, we accept the invitation to publicly and faithfully witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments in that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word.**

One: John the Baptizer told his disciples that he baptized them with water but the One to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

All: **As we renew our baptismal vows, help us recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit within us.**

Act of Baptismal Covenant Renewal

*You are invited to come to one of 3 water stations,
dip your hand into the water, marking your forehead with the sign of the
cross, and remember the love of God for you as God's beloved child.*

The Pastor will come to those with mobility issues.

I am God's beloved, by water and the Spirit.

Hymn during Renewal

Borning Cry

All Verses

found on page 8 of the bulletin

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Shall We Gather at the River 522

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have
 2 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den
 3 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will

trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing
 down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro -
 cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the

Refrain

by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gath - er at the
 vide a robe and crown. mel - o - dy of peace.

riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

HANSON PLACE
8.7.8.7.Ref.

Borning Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

*Scripture Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Scripture Reader: Nancy Bowman

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to

untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Let Light Shine: Filled with Expectation

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**

Installation of 2025-2027 Consistory

Rev. Davis

Spiritual Council Elders:

Wendy Fox (President) 2025,

Paul Raszler, 2026, Colleen Kulhamer, 2027

Deacons:

2025 – Sharon Antrim, Tyler Shankweiler (Sec.), Kathy Roth

2026 – Kay Chryst, Kirby Hower, Bob Bold (Vice President)

2027 – Mike Borgman, Robin Brensinger, Charlotte Kerrigan

Response of the Congregation

We gather in celebration of our covenant and the shared joy of being partners with you in the service of Christ.

We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you as we worship, love, and serve, that together we may be faithful as the Church in the spirit of Christ.

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: Sharon Czekner

All: Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn**

In the Beginning
Verses 1, 2, and 5

found on page 12 of the bulletin

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

Postlude

All Heaven Declares
Arranged by Christina Becket
Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

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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IN THE BEGINNING

Chris Shelton

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623



1. In the be - gin - ning was the Word, no
2. One Word, that gave all oth - ers birth, dwelled
3. Thus, all that is be - gan to be, born
4. A - mong us came this Word to dwell, the
5. Still shin - ing through the deep - est night, no



oth - er sound in heav - en heard.
with the God of all the earth.
of this per - fect u - ni - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
Word made flesh, Em - man - u - el!
shad - ow can put out the light.



There at the dawn - ing of all things, one
One Word, one Wis - dom so di - vine, one
lu - ia! All that has life and breath was stirred, sung
Though in our sin we failed to see, still
Let all that is with - in us praise God's



won - drous Word cre - a - tion sings:
ho - ly whole - ness God's de - sign.
in - to be - ing by the Word. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
by this Word we are set free.
Word of grace and truth al - ways!



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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

Altar Flowers

In memory of my brother, Jay Fisher, by Gregg Fisher

Attendance – January 5

Onsite – 112 Online – 41

Lectionary Readings for the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Serving in Worship Leadership

January 12th, 2025 (Baptism of the Lord)

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Nancy Bowman

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Lucas Williams

Greeters and Ushers: Pam Repetz, Tom & Emilie Moyer

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Social Hour: Bob Bold and Colleen Kulhamer

January 19th, 2025 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

Scripture Reader: Carole O'Connell

Janet Ebert

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Aiden Hannis

Greeters/Ushers: Marion DeMilio, Charlotte Kerrigan, Cindy Reck

Altar Guild: Marion DeMilio

Social Hour: Open

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer:

Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Rick Borgman, Ginny Brokenshire, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Rob Czekner, Joshua Davis (Steve and Bill's grandson), Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Jean Litzenberger, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Leona Snyder, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

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.

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

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

DINE & DONATE AT RED ROBIN

Come to Red Robin at **4688 Broadway, Allentown** (Tilghman Square Shopping Center) on **Monday, January 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.** Menu includes burgers, wraps, salads, entrees, desserts. Flyer is now needed and can be found on church's website and on table in the lounge area. St. John's receives 20% back on sales (excluding adult beverages). Any questions, see Mike Borgman.

VISITATION

The Visitation Committee has moved its meeting day to the 1st Thursday of every month at 9:30am, in Rm 201. If you would like to participate

in this ministry of caring through cards, calls, or personal visits, we invite you to come see what it's all about and how you can help. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Steve for more information.

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Our goal in January and up to Super Bowl Sunday on February 9 is to collect 250 cans of soup. 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. Any other food donations as well as monetary donations are always welcome. **Please bring your cans of soup and place them in the box in the coatroom area by 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.

HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

The Mission Committee and the Confirmation Class are asking for your support to UCC Disaster Ministries and Church World Service in response to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Along with 3 other churches, we are collecting items for CWS's Emergency Cleanup Buckets. St. John's is responsible for collecting the following specific items which are on display at the back of the sanctuary:

1. 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (if used, please scrub clean). No buckets that held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid.
2. Scrub brush with or without a handle.
3. 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent. Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes are also acceptable.
4. Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves. Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple- use.

Monetary donations are also being accepted with funds going to UCC Disaster Ministries Hurricane Relief. Checks should be payable to St. John's with Hurricane 2024 in memo section.

SUPER BOWL TAILGATE PARTY & FAMILY FEUD NIGHT

Come to the Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Family Feud Night on **Saturday, February 8, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. down in Fox Hall.** Meal includes chili, cornbread, desserts, and beverages followed by teams playing Family Feud. **Bring a can of soup for “Souper Bowl of Caring”** to support the Whitehall Food Pantry. Wear clothing of your favorite football team. **A signup sheet** is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office. Let us know the number coming and if you are willing to donate any of the meal items.

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 newsletter, or on the church's website. **Pickup is either Thursday, March 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or on Sunday, March 30 after worship down in Fox Hall.** If you have any questions, see Carol Raszler. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, February 23.**

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.

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND RINGERS

The 2025 Music Ministry year has officially begun! Perhaps 2025 is the year YOU consider becoming involved? If interested in becoming involved with this wonderful ministry for the Church, please contact Patrick at music@sjucf.org for additional information



Learn what it means to have a 5G connection with St. John's

Have you been thinking about making a more significant connection with the St. John's congregation? Are you ready to be part of the faith family and community and be in covenant with us?

Join Pastor Steve for 2 of the 3 scheduled sessions to learn more about St. John's and the 5Gs we focus on as a congregation. You can participate on site or online.

Wednesday, January 22, 2:00pm

Sunday, January 26, 11:00am

Wednesday, January 29, 7:00pm

Gather in faith and fellowship

Gain understanding and relationships

Give in time, talent and treasure

Grow through acts of compassion and service

GO! Sharing our life and love, grace and hope!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nphY_N8huLM

This is your first opportunity in 2025 to further your connection with the church. Become a member in covenant on Sunday, February 2 as we celebrate our year in ministry together.

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 12 – JAN 19**

Sun 1/12	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:00 am	Pre-service Hospitality
	9:30 am	Worship
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline
Mon 1/13	11am-10pm	Dine and Donate, Red Robin
Tues 1/14	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 1/15	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 1/16	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 1/18	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 1/19	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:00 am	Pre-service Hospitality
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
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