

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 11, 2026

**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 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.

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Fun-Raising Information – Hoagies and Bus Trip, Tailgate Party and Church Family Feud Fun Night
- Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch, February 1 following worship.

*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

Come to the Water

Arranged by Craig Courtney

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Sherri Gangwere

One: In the waters of baptism,

All: God marks us as kindred in his name.

One: In the waters of baptism,

All: The heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.

One: In the waters of baptism,
All: God names us Beloved.
One: In the waters of baptism,
All: God claims us as his own.

*Opening Hymn: # 243

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
Verses 1, 2, and 4

*A Modern Affirmation

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

(Adapted from the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church)

One: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:
All: **We believe in God the Father; infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

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.

Hymn Response # 522

Shall We Gather at the River
Verse 1

A UCCW Affirmation of Faith Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere
*(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.

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: 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

Hymn Response # 522

Shall We Gather at the River
Verse 2

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Rev. Davis

One: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

All: **We do.**

One: Do you believe in God?

All: **We believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: **We believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten of God before all worlds.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: **We believe in God, the Holy Spirit.**

One: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

All: **We will, with God's help.**

One: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

All: **We will, with God's help.**

Hymn Response # 522

Shall We Gather at the River
Verse 3

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.**

Sacrament of Baptism

Brooks Wayne Kulhamer

Parents:

Andrew and Jamie Kulhamer

Sponsors:

Tim Harakal and Amy Assaf

Questions to Parents and Family

Congregational Response

All: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, Brooks Kulhamer, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen



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

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Scripture Readings

Scripture Reader: Kay Chyrst

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth

justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 2:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Glory Revealed: Power of Presence

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 2026 Consistory

Rev. Davis

Spiritual Council Elders:

Paul Raszler (President) 2026, Colleen Kulhammer (VP) 2027,
and Linda Powell, 2028

Deacons: 2028: Rev. Janet Boyd, Bobbi Pope

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: Sherri Gangewere

All: God of glory, as people brought gifts to the infant Jesus,
we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts be used to lift
up those who are oppressed, to bring deliverance to
those who are in need, to support those who are poor,
and to help those who are in trouble. In Christ's name,
we pray. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn # 544**

The Church's One Foundation
Verses 1 and 2

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

Postlude

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

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Attendance – January 4

Onsite – 98 Online – 27

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

**9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly
10:30am Sunday Social**

Baptism of the Lord, January 11

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Kay Chryst

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

Usher: Carole O'Connell and Karen Stoisits

Greeter: Charlotte Kerrigan

Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 18

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7 and Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and John 1:29-42

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

Scripture Reader: Tyler Shankweiler

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Usher: Charlotte Kerrigan and Tom Moyer

Greeters: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon

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, Grace Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Keith Fox, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Joey Raszler, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

Prayers for the family of Gus Geissinger, who died January 8th.

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.

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.

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, including 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.

APPLEBEE'S 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.

PEEPS MEETING

The monthly PEEPS (Women's Group) meeting will meet on **Tuesday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Please contact Regi Mohr at 610-390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

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 Stoisits. Please do not roll the Redner's tapes and do not include other stores' receipts.

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING”

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Our goal in January and up to Super Bowl Sunday on February 8 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 even 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 or shelves 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.

SUPER BOWL TAILGATE PARTY & FAMILY FEUD NIGHT

Come to the Super Bowl Tailgate Party and Family Feud Night on **Friday, February 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. down in Fox Hall.** Meal includes chili, cornbread, dessert, and beverage 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 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

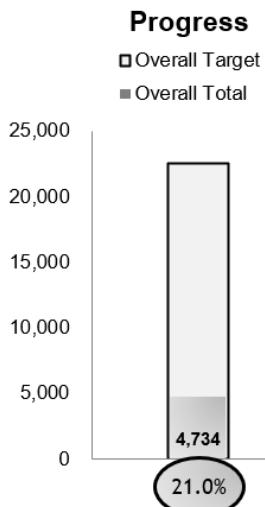
JANUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	4,733.95
Overall Percent	21.0%

Last Week	
Start:	1/4/26
End:	1/10/26
Total:	2,508.75

Amt needed to reach Target

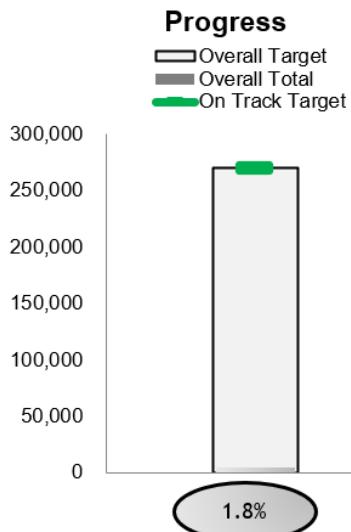
JANUARY 2026 17,766.05



YTD OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	270,000.00
Overall Total	4,733.95
Overall Percent	1.8%



CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11 – JANUARY 18

Sun 1/4	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
		Newsletter Deadline
Tues 1/13	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 1/14	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 1/15	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 1/16	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 1/17	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 1/18	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour

OUR STAFF

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