

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 14, 2024

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

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

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

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We embrace hope and healing in a spirit of grace and gratitude!

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.*

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Baptismal Renewal, all are invited to come
- Sunday Social time Hosts Needed
- Committee & Group Reports for Annual Report due today and February Newsletter articles
- Movie Night & Super Bowl Tailgate Party, Saturday, February 3
- Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch, February 4 following worship

*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: Nancy Bowman

One: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night." And they were good.

All: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

One: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, which we claim in sacred moments like baptism.

All: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation: it is a symbol of grace and belonging, of love and restoring relationship.

One: This day is the day we remember Jesus' baptism.

All: Let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the One who calls us beloved.

***Opening Hymn**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

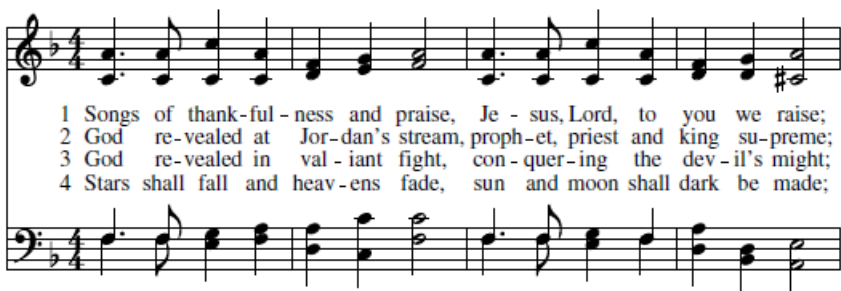
All: Lord of Hope and Light, amid the darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. AMEN.

Celebration of Baptism Renewal Invitation

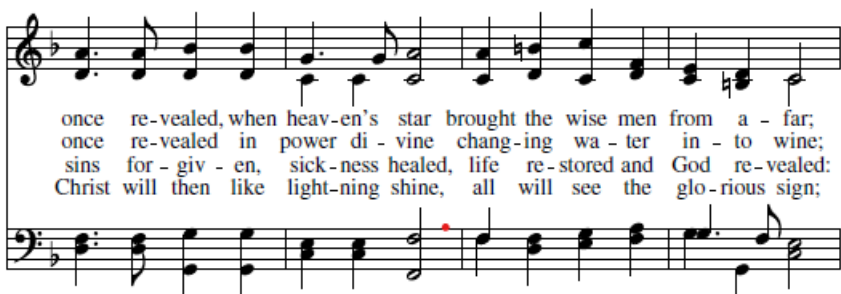
Rev. Davis

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.

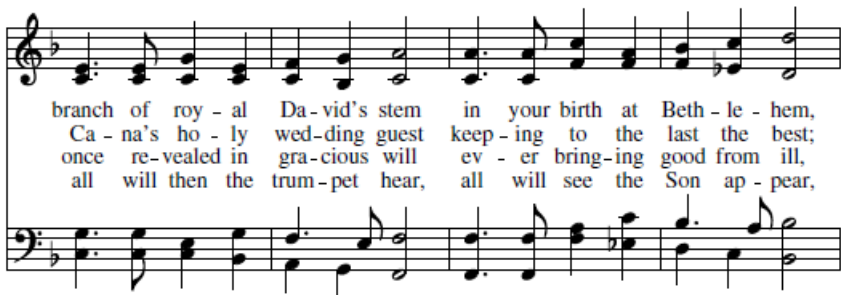
243 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



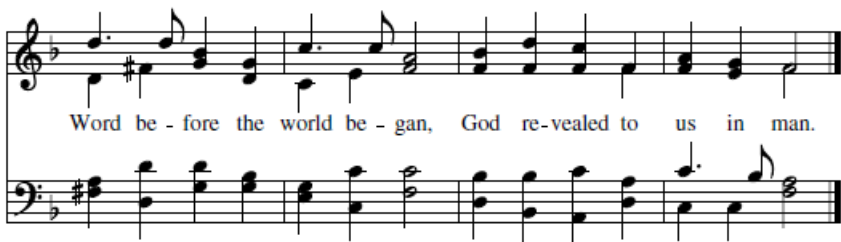
1 Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to you we raise;
 2 God re-vealed at Jor-dan's stream, proph-et, priest and king su-preme;
 3 God re-vealed in val - iant fight, con - quer - ing the dev - il's might;
 4 Stars shall fall and heav - ens fade, sun and moon shall dark be made;



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.

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

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

One: O God, because 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 child,
knew you intimately and spoke of you so,

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: 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**

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.

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 Baptist 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 the 4 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.*

Please take one of the shells from the water with you.

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

Hymn during Renewal

Borning Cry

Found on page 7 of bulletin

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn #597

Shall We Gather at the River

Verses 1 and 2

***Scripture Reading**

Mark 1:4-11

Scripture Reader: Robin Brensinger

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

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

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

With Water and the Holy Spirit

Choir Anthem

Come to the Water

J. Foley/Arr. by J. Schrader

~We Love~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

Loving God, the One who calls us beloved, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people. On this day of renewal and remembrance, we pray for your same Spirit to bless us, set us apart and sanctify us, that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name, as we offer our prayers for these who we name in your love...

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.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

God, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your images, and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose many names we pray together, saying...

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 Consistory 2024

Spiritual Council Elders: DonnaLee Yeatts (President) 2024,
Wendy Fox (Vice President) 2025 – Paul Raszler (Elder) 2026

Deacons:

2024 – Joy Gravely, Wayne Lichtenwalner, Kim Hillegass (E)

2024 Youth Deacon – Fortress Chryst

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

2026 – Kay Chryst, Kirby Hower, Paul Raszler (E), Bob Bold

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** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Nancy Bowman
All: God of grace and glory, You call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work through our gifts and service. In Jesus' name. Amen

~ We Serve ~

***Closing Hymn** *Down by the Jordan*
Verses 1 and 4
found on page 11 of the bulletin

***The Benediction / Our Covenant**
from St. John's Constitution and Bylaws, February 5, 2023
We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We propose to walk together in the ways of the Lord made known and to be made known to us. Our mission is to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in

all the world, while worshipping God and striving for truth, justice and peace. We depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We look for the coming of the Kingdom of God, with faith toward receiving the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Postlude

*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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Many thanks to Barbara Thomson for filling in at the last minute while Patrick is ill.

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 – January 7 Onsite – 24 Online – 67

Serving in Worship Leadership

January 14

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman Scripture Reader – Robin Brensinger
Ushers – Charlotte Kerrigan Worship Tech – Bill Castello
 Karen Stoitsits Social Hosts – Michael & Michelle Gutekunst
Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

January 21

Liturgist – Open Scripture Reader – Open
Ushers – Open Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan
Acolyte – Open Social Hour Host – The Schneck family

Down by the Jordan

1. Down by the Jor - dan, a pro - phet named John was bap - tiz -
 2. There by the riv - er, the crowd came with great ex - pec - ta -
 3. Je - sus, you went to be bap - tized a - long with the o -
 4. Here in the Church, we are bap - tized and filled with God's Spi -

ing, preach - ing a mes - sage the peo - ple found bold and sur -
 tion: "Are you God's Cho - sen One, sent here to res - cue our
 thers, tak - ing your place a - mong sin - ners, God's lost sons and
 rit. Freed and for - giv - en we're wel - comed with joy! Can you

pris - ing. "God will for - give! Show that you'll change how you
 na - tion?" "No!" John re - plied. He who is - migh - tier than
 daugh - ters. Then with great love, God's Spi - rit came as a
 hear - it? This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're

live! Sure - ly God's new day is ris - ing!"
 I jud - ges and of - fers sal - va - tion."
 dove! Your work be - gan in those wa - ters.
 mine!" Let's take the good news and share it!

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22 and John 1:6-8, 14-34)
 MUSIC: *Erneueren Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14 14.478

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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!

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Clarence Biehn, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Geraldine Keim, Rev. Dave Mohr, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from natural disasters across the world as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, 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.

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.

ANNUAL REPORT

Articles for the Annual Report are due to the church office TODAY. Your report should address the theme: "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives." If you are a committee chair, you need to turn in a report! Any questions, call the office.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For January, we will be collecting canned corn, canned fruit and spaghetti sauce. 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.

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, January 23**.

GET YOUR APPLEBEE'S COUPON

Applebee's "Burgers for a Cause" are still available for \$10 each. They do not expire and can be used at any Applebee's in the Lehigh Valley. The coupon entitles you to any hamburger on their menu and fries. See Kenda Catalini or contact her at (484)358-7453 or email at kpcatalini@aol.com.

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.

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR UKRAINE

War didn't stop with the holidays. As the war in Ukraine reaches its third year, we are grateful to the UCC, along with their partners in Ukraine, for their commitment to continue giving humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people. If you would like to make a contribution to UCC National for its work in the Ukraine, please mail your donation into the church office, place it in the offering plate, or contribute online or by text. You can also find General Disaster Fund envelopes on the table in the lounge area. Be sure to put "Ukraine Relief Fund" in the memo section.

MOVIE NIGHT & SUPER BOWL TAILGATE PARTY

Regardless of what team is going to the Super Bowl this year, we have a celebration planned with a Movie and Tailgate Party. Join us on **Saturday, February 3**, down in Fox Hall for another family fun event. Bring a covered dish for the meal starting at 6:00 pm. The movie "80 for Brady" will be shown at 7:00 pm. We suggest you bring a comfortable lawn chair for watching the movie. Donations of cans of soup are also requested for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" fundraiser for the Whitehall Food Pantry. **Look for the sign-up sheet posted in the lounge area and plan on coming.** If you have any questions, please see Bill Castello or Carol Raszler.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	4,197.30
Overall Percent	18.7%

Last Week	
Start:	1/7/24
End:	1/13/24
Total:	858.00

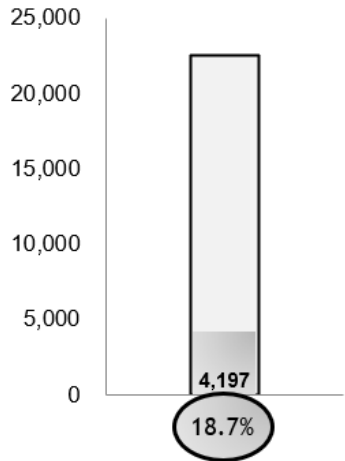
Amt needed to reach Target

JANUARY 2024 **18,302.70**

Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

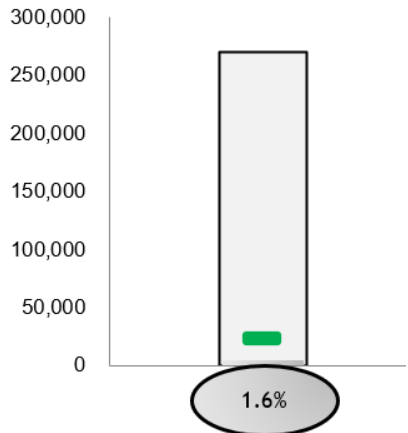
Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	4,197.30
Overall Percent	1.6%

Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total

■ On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of Jan 14 through Jan 21

Sun 1/14	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Consistory Installation/Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Newsletter/Annual Report Deadlines		
Mon 1/15	Office Closed – MLK Day	
Tues 1/16	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 1/17	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 1/18	6:00 pm	Bells
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 1/20	9:00 am	Zumba
	9:00 am	Consistory Retreat
Sun 1/21	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
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Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
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