

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 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany/
Ecumenical Sunday
9:30am**

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

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

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.

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Far and Wide

Arr. by Jason Krug

Bells of St. John

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Sunday Social time Hosts Needed
- Movie Night & Super Bowl Tailgate Party, Saturday, February 3
- Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch, February 4 following worship
- Pastoral Evaluations – Return by February 4

*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: Sharon Czekner

One: Gather this day in silence and hope

All: We wait for God's word for us.

One: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

All: God is our strength and salvation.

One: Wait patiently for the Lord.

All: With willing hearts and spirits we wait for the Lord.

***Opening Hymn**

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day.

All: As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Almighty God, as the church, we are part of your redeeming work in history. Yet we know that often we seek our own success and salvation, and fear to follow Christ in commitment to a vision of wholeness for the world and its peoples.

All: Help us to speak and live our parts of the great drama of your love, and in the freeing gospel of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

(Time for Silent Prayer)


Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner


One: Beloved, while we wait, we have grace to love fully, pursue liberty, and seek a just world. The Holy One has given us the blueprint and invitation to the path of new life.

All: May we follow Jesus with grace and in truth. Amen


571 Christ, You Call Us All to Service




1 Christ, you call us all to serv-ice, call us all who fol - low you;
 2 Teach us how to work to - geth-er, broth-ers, sis - ters, side by side,
 3 Let us be a ser - vant peo-ple, re - con-cil - ing, end - ing strife,



plant in us a deep com-mit-ment all your work and will to do.
 e - qual part-ners in the strug-gle, in the cause of truth al - lied.
 seek - ing ways more just of shar-ing and of or - dering hu - man life.



Fire a pas-sion for your jus-tice, in us kin - dle love of peace;
 To each one some gift is giv-en, man or wo-man, young or old;
 Fill us with a glow-ing vi-sion of this world as it should be;



help us heal the bro - ken-heart-ed, to the cap - tive bring re - lease.
 help us use each skill and tal - ent your great pur - pose to un - fold.
 send us forth to change that vi - sion in - to blest re - al - i - ty.

WORDS: Joy F. Patterson (1931-)
 MUSIC: Dutch melody, 18th c.; arr. Julius Rontgen (1855-1933)

IN BABILONE
 8.7.8.7.D.

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Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

*Hymn

There Is a Longing
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 5 of the bulletin.

*Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 14-20

Scripture Reader: Janet Ebert

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

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

Sung Response

**Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Fishing, Following, and More Fishing

Anthem

Speak O Lord
Lloyd Larson

~We Love~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of every land and nation, you live in us in Jesus Christ. Hear our cries as we pray to you, and as we proclaim the greatness of your name, may all people know the power of love at work in the world as we open our lives to you this day, praying for...

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and follow the way of Christ. All of this we pray in your many names, who called people into relationships of grace and hope and who taught us to pray...

THERE IS A LONGING

Anne Quigley

Refrain

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re-
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our hearts for

Verses

love we on - ly find in you, our God.

1. For jus - tice,
2. For wis - dom,
3. For heal - ing,
4. Lord save us,

1. for free - dom, for mer - cy: hear our prayer. In
2. for cour - age, for com - fort: hear our prayer. In
3. for whole - ness, for new life: hear our prayer. In
4. take pit - y, light in our dark - ness. We

to Refrain

1. sor - row,	in grief:	} be near, hear our prayer, O God.
2. weak - ness,	in fear:	
3. sick - ness,	in death:	
4. call you,	we wait:	

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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

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we present. Grow our trust in you so we might follow without looking back and might more deeply have life in you. May our gifts and actions help us and others hear your call to follow you. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen

~ We Serve ~

*Closing Hymn

The Summons
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 7 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

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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The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call your name? Will you set the
 call your name? Will you quell the
 call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 pris - oners free And nev - er be the same?
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should you
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where you



let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, and Graham Maule, 1958-2019, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 7 7 6, Scottish melody

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 14

Onsite – 104 Online – 22

Altar Flowers

One vase sponsored by Paul and Carol Raszler in memory of
mother and grandmother Pauline Raszler
by Paul, Carol, Michael and Josef Raszler

Serving in Worship Leadership

January 21

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner	Scripture Reader – Janet Ebert
Ushers – Bob Czekner, Karen Stoitsits	Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan
Acolyte – Open	Social Hour Hosts – The Schneck family

January 28

Liturgist – Open	Scripture Reader – Open
Ushers – Karen Stoitsits	Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan
Acolyte – Open	Social Host – Kay Chryst

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. 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.

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!

WEATHER

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter, as well as on our St. John's Facebook page, website and email to the congregation. Please focus always on your safety and wellbeing.

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

For the entire month of February, in support of “Souper Bowl of Caring,” we will be collecting all kinds of canned soups. We particularly request everyone to bring a can of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11. Our Confirmation Class will be on hand with soup pots after worship if you would like to give a monetary donation.

Church Calendar for the Week of Jan 21 through 28

Sun 1/21	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Communion
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Mon 1/22	6:00 pm	“Fun Raising” Committee
Tues 1/23	9:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 1/24	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 1/25	6:30 pm	Property Committee
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 1/27	9:00 am	Zumba
Sun 1/28	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 Day

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjuccf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjuccf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst (FS) financialsecretary@sjuccf.org (CC) custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello (W-MT) stars@sjuccf.org (CNE) newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net