

# 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!**



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT  
AND MY SALVATION—  
WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

THE LORD IS THE  
STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE—  
OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

**January 25, 2026**

**Third 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. Today, we ask you to put a little extra in your offering if you are able, to help defray the cost of snow removal.



Using the QR code to access our secure giving portal, or using the **Contribute** tab on our website, we invite you to share your support for our ministry together. Please mail in your donation envelopes or use the electronic giving options.

***Thank you in advance for your faithfulness and generosity.***

***Sunday Social*** is normally our time to visit around the tables in Fox Hall and enjoy some food and conversation together. Today, we invite you to:

- ***Share in the YouTube CHAT*** with greetings, comments and prayer requests or joys to be shared later.
- ***text a selfie or weather picture*** from your home to share with us
- ***join us LIVE using the Zoom link*** emailed to you for a few minutes of greetings, seeing each other's faces and pictures shared and enjoy a Sunday connection from home.

***Children's Faith Formation*** is enjoyed by children and "kids at heart" with our Mystery Bag during worship. The Kistler girls, Adalynn and Brynley, have the bag at their home this snow Sunday for another fun surprise for Pastor Steve.

## Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Fun-Raising Information – Hoagies and Bus Trip
- Annual Meeting Report Book – Emailed and Online
- Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch  
February 1 following worship.
- Friday, February 7, 6:00pm – Tailgate Party and Church Family Feud Fun Night
- Register online using the direct links or QR codes for our upcoming events.

## **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**

*Soli Deo Gloria*

Marty Haugen

New Song for Worship *found on page 3*

## **Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

**One:** Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can  
proclaim with confidence:

**All: God is our light and salvation!**

**Whom shall we fear?**

**One:** When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on  
every side, we can declare with confidence:

**All: God is the stronghold of our lives!**

**Of whom shall we be afraid?**

**One:** No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to  
live in the house of God forever.

**All: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.**

**One:** Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and  
salvation!

**All: We come to worship as bearers of the Light.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Opening Hymn**

*Soli Deo Gloria*

Verses 1 and 2

*(found on Page 3)*

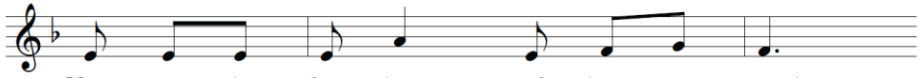
# Soli Deo Gloria



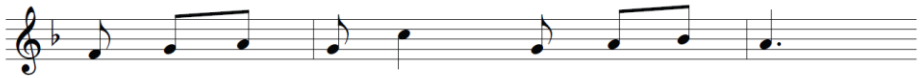
1. O God of bless-ings, all praise to you!
2. All praise for proph-ets, through grace in - spired
3. All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found,
4. All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine



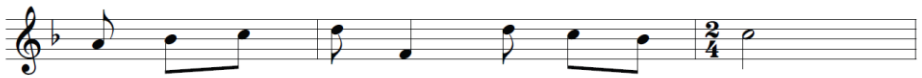
Your love sur - rounds us our whole life through.  
 To preach and wit - ness with hearts on fire.  
 Through hands and voic - es in ho - ly sound:  
 Through word and wit - ness, in bread and wine;



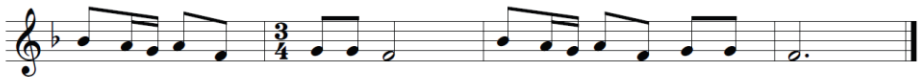
You are the free - dom of those op - pressed;  
 Your Spir - it choos - es the weak and small  
 The psalms of Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise,  
 In - car - nate Love Song of bound - less grace,



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.*

**Prayer of Confession and Response** Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: Christ calls us to follow, knowing that we are human.  
Jesus knows we are not perfect. He knows we will not  
always get it right. All he asks is that we try, learn, and try  
again. Let us now come before God, admitting our struggles  
and failures, as we now pray.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

All: **Holy Christ, we come to You knowing that we have fallen  
away from your intentions for us. We have followed the  
paths of greed and envy, turned away from our siblings  
in need in order to satisfy our own desires.  
You gave your life for us, and yet we are willing to give so  
little at times. Forgive us for not understanding that You  
laid down your life for us. Forgive us for not recognizing  
the sacrifice of love, to live for others instead of  
ourselves. Call us back to repent and return to the way of  
Jesus, in whose precious name, we pray. Amen.**

**Sung Response** Choir, All

**Call to Confession for Epiphany**

*Riko Watanabe*

♩ = 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: Christ continues to lay down his life for us, so we might  
have life. Christ continues to show us the way,  
so we might live into the truth and the life.

**All: Christ continues to love us, so we might love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. May we know through this love the great truth – we are forgiven, loved, and given new life. Amen.**

**Children's Message**

Rev. Davis & Samantha Kistler

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

**Hymn #347**

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Verses 1 and 2

**Scripture Reading**

*Psalms 27: 1, 4-9*

Scripture Reader: Corinna Purdon

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

**Glory Revealed: Carrying the Light**

**Musical Reflection**

Patrick Sandt

# We Love

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

(Requests shared from online messages)

## and Pastoral Prayer

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

Rev. Davis



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!

## Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

**All: Steadfast Giver of Light, receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people — unafraid — become living examples of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our Light and Salvation, we pray. Amen.**

# We Serve

**Closing Hymn #248**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
Verses 1 and 2

**The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

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## Join Us for Today's Sunday Social

Participate by staying on the livestream, or end the worship time on YouTube and come to the Zoom link for LIVE sharing together.

### 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, Gary George, 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, 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.

**Attendance – January 18 “Snow Day 1”**

Online – 93

**Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule**

**8:15am Friendship Class**

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

**10:30am Sunday Social**



## **Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 25**

### **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: Sharon Czekner                      Scripture Reader: Corrina Purdon  
Worship Tech: Bill Castello                      Altar Guild: Cindy Reck  
Usher: Carole O'Connell and Wayne Lichtenwalner  
Greeters: Kim Hillegass

## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, February 1**

### **Lectionary Readings**

*Micah 6:1-8 and Psalm 15*  
*1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and Matthew 5:1-12*

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Janet Boyd                      Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim  
Worship Tech: Bill Castello                      Altar Guild: Corinna Purdon  
Greeters: Linda Powell, Dewey Yeatts, Robin Brensinger,  
Kirby Hower, Janet Boyd  
Ushers: Kirby Hower, Robin Brensinger

## **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, 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.

### **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**

**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 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).

## **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.

## **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 pm until 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.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **February 7 at 8:30am**, and Rev. Bob Stevens will be our speaker.

We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Pastor Steve.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	13,002.17
Overall Percent	57.8%

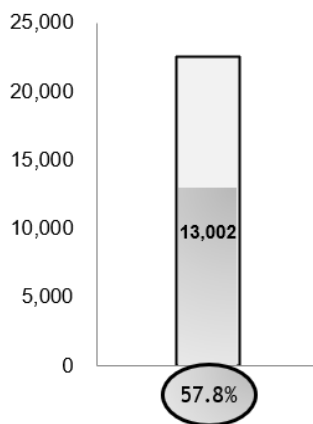
Last Week	
Start:	1/18/26
End:	1/24/26
Total:	1,078.87

Amt needed to reach Target

JANUARY 2026	9,497.83
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### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



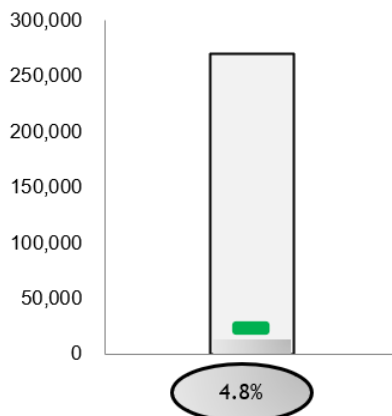
## YTD OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	13,002.17
Overall Percent	4.8%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



# **CHURCH CALENDAR** **FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 1**

Sun 1/25	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Tues 1/27	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
Wed 1/28	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 1/29	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 1/30	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 1/31	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 2/1	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation
		Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Annual Meeting with Potluck

## 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 iron1@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