

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



*We Worship, We Love, We Serve
- No Matter What!*

January 28, 2024

**4th Sunday after Epiphany
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.

Prelude

Come to Me

Dan Forest

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Sunday Social time Hosts Needed
- Honoring Tom & Emilie Moyer – Receiving Donations
- Movie Night & Super Bowl Tailgate Party, Saturday, February 3
- Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch, February 4 following worship
- Lent begins February 14 with “Ash & Dash” 8-9am & 4-5pm and Soup & Bread Dinner 6pm and Worship 7pm

***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: Tom Moyer

One: Come to worship this day. Bring with you all your joys and sorrows.

All: Jesus will offer hope.

One: Come to worship this day believing in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

All: Jesus will bring us healing.

One: Come to worship this day feeling the presence of God.

All: Jesus will teach us new ways to live. Amen

***Opening Hymn**

O Christ the Healer

Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on page 3 of the bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

All: Holy God, open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the good news of your power and presence with all your people. Renew and restore us, believing you are with us, through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets, and through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. Amen

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

One: We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We proclaim your word when it suits us, yet often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and blindness. So many times, our humble help could be a blessing to someone, but we place our comforts before serving others.

All: Help us, merciful God, to listen to you, to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive our foolishness and stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace, community and hope to all.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come 638

1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our
 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we in
 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in

pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 bod - ies clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 your com - mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -

be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
 MUSIC: Robert A. Schumann (1810-1856)

CANONBURY
 L.M.

Words © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

One: Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace.

All: God opens our lives to God's power and presence. Let us not be afraid. God is with us, now and always. Amen

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

***Hymn**

There Is a Longing
Verses 3 and 4

found on page 5 of the bulletin.

***Scripture Reading**

Mark 1: 21-28

Scripture Reader: Wayne Lichtenwalner

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

And then the Church Rose Up!

Anthem

In this Place
Daniel Meyer

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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~We Love~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

Holy and awesome God, Jehovah Rapha, our Healer, our God known to us in many names, the one whose authority is found in integrity and living truth, not the assertion of power over others; we ask you to open our imaginations to new dimensions of your love, and heal us of all that severs us from you and one another, that we may grow into the vision you unfold before us of being those who rise up to serve in your love. Give us assurance of your presence as we offer ourselves in prayer for these whom we share and name...

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Give us ears to hear, and hearts to respond to the touch of your hand in our lives, lifting us up so we might inspire others to rise and serve in your name, O Christ our Healer. Lead us to share your transforming love with family and neighbors, community and country, until all can embrace and welcome your good news. All of this we pray in your gracious hope, as you taught us to pray...

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: Tom Moyer

All: God Incarnate, through the life of Jesus, you gave us reason to have hope in the service of others. May the gifts we offer be blessed by the beauty of service, which allows us to build the beloved community of God moment by moment, choice by choice, standing alone and rising together. Amen

~ We Serve ~

***Closing Hymn**

All Creatures of our God and King

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 8 of the bulletin

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Patrick Sandt

Last Verse on Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Arranged by Noel Rawsthorne

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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23 All Creatures of Our God and King

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 All you who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

sing Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en
 long, O praise him, Al-le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re -
 hear, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter - ful and
 part, sing prais - es, Al-le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor-row
 ness, O praise him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the

beam, and sil-ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
 joice, O lights of eve-ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

praise him, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!

WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 L.M. Alleluia

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 21

Onsite – 99 Online - 31

Serving in Worship Leadership

January 28

Liturgist – Tom Moyer

Scripture Reader – Wayne Lichtenwalner

Acolyte – Open

Worship Tech – Jesus Pagan

Ushers – Staci Pagan, Karen Stoitsits

Social Hosts – Kay Chryst

February 4

Liturgist – Open

Scripture Reader – Open

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Ushers – DonnaLee Yeatts

Social Hour Host – Church Potluck

Wendy Fox, Sharon Antrim,

Kay Chryst, Kim Hillegass

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, David and Grace Mohr, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, 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 two sponsors for the monthly newsletter at \$50.00 each. Please contact the church office for additional information or to sign up!

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, February 27.**

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. We ask you to wear clothing of your favorite team. 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”

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. **For the entire month of February, 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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For February, we will be collecting cans of soup for the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” 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.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The next Men’s Breakfast group will meet on **Saturday, February 3, at 8:30 a.m. at Hamilton Family Restaurant** located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. We would be pleased to have you join us. For more information, see Bob Bold or contact him at 610-393-6123 or QVRRBold@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.

GIANT & WEIS GROCERY CARDS

Giant and Weis grocery gift cards can be purchased here at St. John's. By doing so, you contribute 5% back to St. John's. They come in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100. The gift cards can also be used to purchase gas. Look for Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler in the lounge area on Sunday or check with the church office during the week to make your purchases

NEWS FROM OUR CRAFTERS

We're looking for someone to knit or crochet a new design for the 3"x3" prayer squares. We have plenty of yard available and can supply you with the pattern. Our Women's Group Church Cookbook is now on sale for \$5.00. Look for our Easter & Spring Craft Sale on March 10 and March 17 in the lounge before and after worship.

BINGO!

It's Bingo time again! Mark your calendars for Friday, March 15 for St. Patrick's Day Bingo. Tickets are available from Tom Moyer or the church office.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

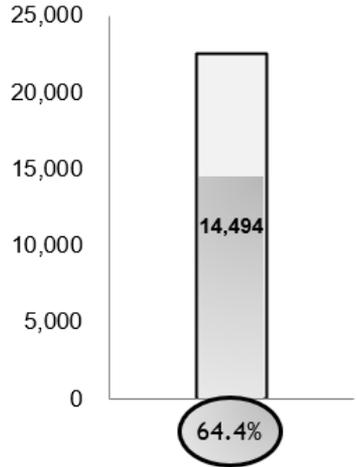
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,493.65
Overall Percent	64.4%

Last Week	
Start:	1/21/24
End:	1/27/24
Total:	2,399.00

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
JANUARY 2024	8,006.35

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



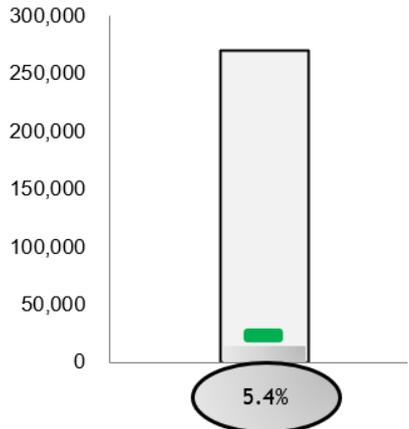
YTD OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	14,493.65
Overall Percent	5.4%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of Jan 28 through Feb 4

Sun 1/28	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Communion
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation Make-up Day
Tues 1/30	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship and Music
Wed 1/31	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/1	6:00 pm	Bells
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 2/3	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast, Ham Fam
	9:00 am	Zumba
	6:00 pm	Supper and Movie
Sun 2/4	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Annual Meeting and Potluck

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
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