

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org) † 610-264-8421



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



We Worship, We Love, We Serve  
– No Matter What!

**January 4, 2026**

**Feast of the Epiphany  
9:30 am**

# 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.*

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

## Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Clarence Biehn Memorial Luncheon and Service today.
- Annual Reports due tomorrow, Annual Meeting February 1
- Baptismal Renewal Celebration next Sunday, January 11
- Fun-Raising Information and Bus Trip

### \*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

*We Three Kings*

Arr. by Chris DiSilva

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Wise men came from the East to worship one they had never seen.

All: They brought rich gifts to one they did not even know.

One: They were not Jews, yet they came to worship the King of the Jews.

All: **They were outsiders, yet their offerings were accepted.**

One: They had strange ideas about stars, but saw cohesion in the whole world's plan. They grew in wisdom.

All: **For them, a King had come that would not be a tyrant.**  
**For them, the little child was the focus of all meaning.**  
**This King would make all things new.**

One: They were dreamers who saw beyond the facts to the reality, and they went home changed. Come, come everyone, from the East and from everywhere,

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**\*Opening Hymn #189**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
Verses 1, 2 and 4

### **Prayer of Confession**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Friends, let us begin this new year with unburdened hearts. We come to worship, trusting our confession before God and one another moves us closer to God's heart. So now we pray.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

All: **God of stars and angels, you hear us cry, “Gloria!” and “Praise!” yet you watch us do little in response to the cries for help around us. Hear our prayer, “Help us change; turn us around, make us more loving, courageous and hopeful.” We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Prayer Response**      *“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”* - Verse 3  
**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,**  
**When with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold,**  
**When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling;**  
**And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**All: God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

Rev. Davis and  
Samantha Kistler

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

## **Hymn # 229**

*The First Noel*  
Verses 1, 2, and 3

## **\*Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Glory Revealed: Seeing the Light

### Song of Praise

*Sing We Noel*

Mary McDonald

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear. Angels called to shepherd, "Leave your flocks at rest; journey forth to Bethlehem to find the Lamb-kin blest."*

*Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel! Unto us a Son, God's only one, is given now to dwell. Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel! Christ has come! Sing we Noel!*

*From the eastern country came the kings so far, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. Gold and myrrh they took Him, gifts of greatest price; there was never a stable so much like paradise.*

*Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel! Unto us a Son, God's only one, is given now to dwell. Sing we noel, the King is born, Noel! Christ has come! Sing we Noel! Christ has come! Sing we Noel! Sing Noel! Sing Noel!*

## We Love

### Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

& 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**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church at least once in 2026 to fulfill our membership observance of receiving communion.*

**We Are an Inclusive Community!**  
In the United Church of Christ, we observe an  
“Open Communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.  
In the UCC, ALL means ALL!

## Invitation to Receive

Rev. Davis and  
Samantha Kistler

One: People of Christmas, the Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.**

One: People of Christmas, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**All: We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

One: In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos.

**All: You whispered, and your glory filled the skies. You sang, and the dust of the earth was shaped into your image, as you breathed life into us.**

One: We could have lived in grace and peace with you for as long as the sun endures, for as long as the moon hangs in the night sky.

**All: But we were tempted by the sweet taste of sin, and overwhelmed with temptation's wealth of cheap gifts and thrills.**

One: The prophets were sent to tell of your gifts of joy and peace, but we listened to the world's news of success, power, achievement. Finally, in that dark time of despair, you sent Jesus, your servant of salvation. Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

*Sung response found on page 6*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and  
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text © 2010, ICEL

IN DULCI JUBILO

Arr. by Kevin Keil © 2016, WLP

One: Holy are you, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Overwhelmed with compassion, you left the glory of heaven to become God with us, so we could be set free.

All: **Overwhelmed with hope, he entered death's house, to break its dark power forever. Overwhelmed with love, he travelled another road, walking to Calvary, so we might run with joy into your waiting arms.**

**So, as we remember his birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:**

One: We remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, took a cup of wine, blessed and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my life and love, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me." Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast, singing:

*Sung response found on page 7*

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a - gain, un - til you come a - gain.

Text © 2010, ICEL

IN DULCI JUBILO  
Arr. by Kevin Keil © 2016, WLP

**One:** Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, and on the gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children.

**All:** Feed us with the bread of hope, so when we leave, we will travel another road, to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside. Refresh us with the sweet drink of your grace, so we, overwhelmed with joy, would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten; to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

**One:** And when eternity's time begins for us and we are gathered around your Table with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

### Sung Response

A - men. A - men. A - men.

IN DULCI JUBILO  
Arr. by Kevin Keil © 2016, WLP

## Sharing the Meal

*The elements will be passed in the pew, and we will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup passed and all drink together.*

## Music During Communion: #184

*What Child is This*

*Verse 1 as the elements of bread are received*

*Verse 2 as the elements of wine are received*

*Verse 3 as the elements are returned to the altar.*

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

**All: Amen**

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

**All: Amen**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All:** Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine which we have received, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh, Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him, living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. 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!

Reminder: Contributions made to the Elevator fund will be moved to the Pavilion Loan fund. Thank you for your support.

## \*Doxology

### Christmas Doxology

(tune: *United Methodist Hymnal* no. 229)

G D G C D<sup>7</sup> G  
Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry  
D G C D<sup>7</sup> G C Am  
to the Ho-ly Spir-it, glo-ry to the Three-in- One. Here we of-fer to you  
D Bm Em Am D C  
glad - ly all the gifts that you im - part, as we  
G C D<sup>7</sup> Em C G C D<sup>7</sup> G  
glo - ry in your Pre - sence, giv - ing from a grate - ful heart.

WORDS: Brenda J. Heard  
MUSIC: Traditional Polish melody

W ZLOBIE LEZY  
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: Steadfast God of refuge and promise, receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

# We Serve

## \*Sending Hymn #236

*As with Gladness Men of Old*  
All Verses

## \*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

## Postlude

*Masters in this Hall*

Arranged by Gordon Young

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

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### **Flower Sponsorship for January 4<sup>th</sup>**

In loving memory of my dad, Stewart Werley  
by Sharon Antrim

### **Attendance – December 24, Christmas Eve Service**

Onsite - 155      Online – 42

### **Attendance – December 28**

Onsite – 68      Online – 35

### **Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule**

**8:15am Friendship Class**

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

**10:30am Sunday Social**

### **Feast of the Epiphany, January 4**

**Lectionary Readings**

*Isaiah 60:1-6 and Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14*

*Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12*

### **Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Sharon Antrim

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Greeters and Ushers: Tom and Kay Chryst, Wendy Fox,

Kirby Hower, Kathy Roth

### **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

## 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, Roxanne 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 Clarence Biehn, who died on December 24: 2025, as well as continued prayers for the Mohr, Abel and Bold families.

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](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter).

## GROCERY OPPORTUNITIES – GIANT, WEIS & REDNER'S

Buy Giant and Weis gift cards and the church receives 5% back. Also good for purchasing gas. 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.

## WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry could particularly use pancake mix, cereal and soup, but any food is welcome, as well as monetary donations. Cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring will go to the food pantry. Food items can be placed in the shopping cart found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. Volunteers for the food pantry are needed for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 9:00am to 11:30am and from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located at 3900 Mechanicsville Rd.

in Whitehall. Contact Gary Black at 484-274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) to volunteer.

## **LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2026 ARE HERE**

This coupon book, good for all of 2026, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25

## **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 it 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. See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

It's that time of year again to begin working on the Annual Report. The due date for your report to be in the office is January 5<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "We Worship, We Love, We Serve-No Matter What!"

**CHURCH CALENDAR  
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4 – JANUARY 11**

|           |          |                          |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| Sun 1/4   | 8:15 am  | Adult Faith Formation    |
|           |          | Friendship Class         |
|           | 9:30 am  | Worship                  |
|           | 10:30 am | Social Hour              |
| Tues 1/6  | 9:30 am  | Staff Meeting            |
|           | 6:30 pm  | Stewardship and Finance  |
| Wed 1/7   | 9:00 am  | Verso Chat               |
|           | 12 noon  | Painting Group           |
|           | 6:00 pm  | Painting Group           |
|           | 6:30 pm  | Zumba                    |
|           | 7:00 pm  | SAA Recovery Group       |
|           | 7:00 pm  | Mission Committee        |
| Thurs 1/8 | 9:30 am  | Visitation Committee     |
|           | 6:00 pm  | Bell Choir               |
|           | 7:00 pm  | Choir                    |
| Fri 1/9   | 5:00 pm  | St. George Church School |
| Sat 1/10  | 9:30 am  | Zumba                    |
| Sun 1/11  | 8:15 am  | Adult Faith Formation    |
|           |          | Friendship Class         |
|           | 9:30 am  | Worship                  |
|           | 9:30 am  | Faith Formation          |
|           | 10:30 am | Social Hour              |
|           |          | Newsletter Deadline      |

## OUR STAFF

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Senior Pastor   | Rev. Steve Davis<br><a href="mailto:srpastor@sjuccf.org">srpastor@sjuccf.org</a>   |
| Director of Music                                     | Patrick Sandt<br><a href="mailto:music@sjuccf.org">music@sjuccf.org</a>  |
| Ministry Intern                                       | Samantha “Sam” Kistler<br><a href="mailto:samanthamkistler@gmail.com">samanthamkistler@gmail.com</a>   |
| Office Administrator                                  | Alison Berger Boor<br><a href="mailto:officesecretary@sjuccf.org">officesecretary@sjuccf.org</a>   |
| Treasurer   | Sue Weldner<br><a href="mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com">sbweldner@gmail.com</a>  |
| Financial Secretary<br>& Coordinating Custodian       | Michelle Gutekunst<br><a href="mailto:financialsecretary@sjuccf.org">financialsecretary@sjuccf.org</a><br><a href="mailto:custodians@sjuccf.org">custodians@sjuccf.org</a> |
| Worship-Media Tech<br>& Connections Newsletter Editor | Bill Castello<br><a href="mailto:stars@sjuccf.org">stars@sjuccf.org</a><br><a href="mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org">newsletter@sjuccf.org</a>                                |
| Custodian   | Christina Bach<br><a href="mailto:ironton1@verizon.net">ironton1@verizon.net</a>   |
| Custodian   | Geoffrey Jackson<br><a href="mailto:geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com">geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com</a>   |
| St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director   | Jazmin Smith<br><a href="mailto:staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com">staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com</a><br>610-443-0254   |