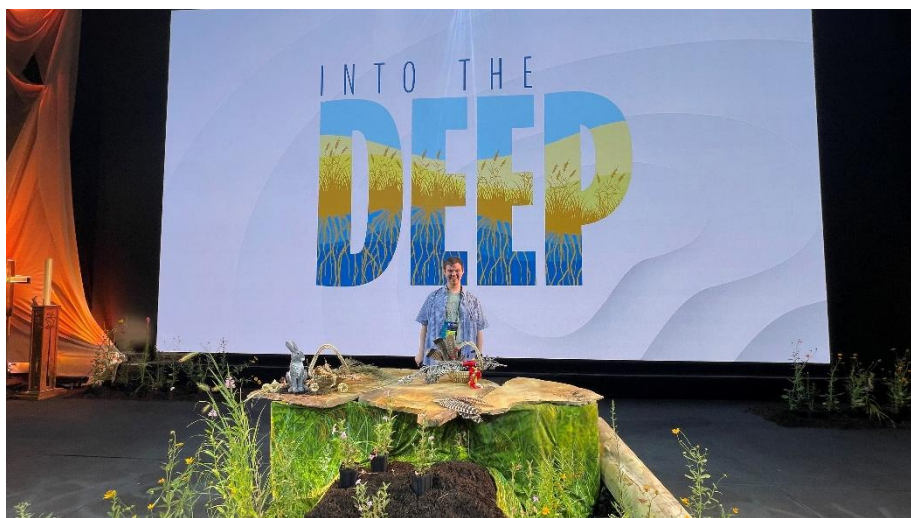




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street ☩ Whitehall PA 18052
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org
610-264-8421



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

**July 27, 2025
9:30am**



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We celebrate the life and hope we find together in God's love!

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 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.

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

Welcome and Announcements

- Giant & Weis Cards and Redner's Tapes (See pg. 9)
- SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL!
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm July 30, August 13 & 20, with mid-week Faith Formation guide,
"How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It! (See pg. 8)
- Backpacks and Back to School Supplies (See pg. 10)
- St. John's CONNECTION Classes, Aug. 17, 18, 20 & 24
(See pg. 12)

***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

*Little Mountain Church House
Jim Rushing and Carl Jackson*

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; God's glory will dwell in our land.

All: Let us hear what God will speak!

One: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other; faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

All: Let us hear what God will speak!

One: God will speak peace to God's people, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

All: Let us hear what God will speak! Together, let us worship!

***Gathering Hymn**

I'll Fly Away

Verse 1: Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away!
To a home on God's celestial shore: I'll fly away!

Refrain: I'll fly away, oh Glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, Hallelujah
By and by, I'll fly away.

Verse 2: When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away!
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.
(*To Refrain*)

Verse 3: Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away!
To lead on where joy shall never end: I'll fly away.
(*To Refrain*)

Invitation and Prayer for Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: God's salvation is at hand, that God's glory may dwell in us.
Turning towards God, let us confess the ways we have sinned, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, we humbly confess that we have fallen short of who you call us to be. We seek peace and

comfort in our lives, ignoring the needs of those around us. We live our lives in ways that bring chaos and calamity to our neighbors. Cleanse us from sin and show us your steadfast love, so that in turning to you, we may seek unity and peace for all of creation.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Beloved, God has forgiven all of your trespasses. You are alive together with God.

All: **May we know that we are forgiven and be at peace, through the Mercy and love of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Children's Message
Hymn**

Rev. Steve Davis

Drinking from the Fountain

Refrain: We are drinking from the fountain.
We are drinking from the fountain, Lord
We are drinking from the fountain
That never runs dry.

***Scripture Reading:**

Colossians 2: 6-7

Read by: Sharon Czekner

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

General Synod Reflection and Sermon

Tyler Shankweiler
and Rev. Steve Davis

“Into the Deep – In Search of a Bigger Tent”



We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

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

Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: As we bring these gifts, we do so in gratitude, abounding in thanksgiving for your grace. May these offerings be signs of our rootedness in you, bearing fruit for your kingdom. Let them be used to bring hope, healing, and new life to those in need. Keep us steadfast in Christ, walking in faith and filled with the joy of your

transforming love. In the name of the one who makes us whole, we pray. Amen

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

I Saw the Light
Hank Williams

Verse 1: I wandered so aimless, life filed with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Refrain: I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Verse 2: Just like a blind man, I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light (*To Refrain*)

Verse 3: I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light. (*To Refrain*)

*Benediction

*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.

A WORD OF THANKS

To the Jordan Spring Bluegrass for sharing their time and talent with the St John's congregation.

A special word of thanks to their members:

*Regi Mohr - fiddle, Richard Bernardin - mandolin,
Gregg Fisher - guitar, Dennis Schuler – banjo*

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Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

Attendance – July 20

Onsite – 75 Online – 37

7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 27

Lectionary Readings

Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85

Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) and Luke 11:1-13

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

Scripture Reader: Sharon Czekner

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Pam Repetz

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck

8th Sunday after Pentecost, August 3

Lectionary Readings

Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Robin Brensinger

Scripture Reader: Corrina Schneck

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corrina Schneck

Greeter: Cindy Reck

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Grace Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Christina Bach, Clarence Biehn, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Barry and Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

Prayers for the family of Gayle Mihulec, who died June 6.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate Rev. Todd Fennell as he celebrates the 45th anniversary of his ordination, which took place on July 28, 1980.

CALLING ALL READERS AND LITURGISTS!

St. John's is looking to continue to build our established Volunteer list by adding additional readers and liturgists to our Sunday service.

The role of the Liturgist is to assist the pastor in leading worship services by helping to facilitate the entire service. They are not simply readers of scripture like a lector, but rather actively participate in guiding the congregation through the various parts of the worship. The liturgist may lead prayers, calls to worship, or read scripture, among other duties. The role of a Reader is someone who proclaims the scripture readings during the liturgy. They as well are volunteers from the congregation.

If interested in becoming involved, please email Patrick (music@sjuccf.org) or call him at the church, ext. 13. From the youngest to oldest members of our congregation, please consider becoming involved in this wonderful ministry for the church!

SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL!

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm
July 23 & 30, August 6 & 13

This tongue twister opportunity to deepen our faith and enjoy a fresh time of learning is perfect for your Wednesday evenings this summer. This special summer series invites you to step into Room 201 (Sanctuary/Office level) for supper (salads and sandwiches), study, and a sacred safe space where spiritual senses are stirred and sharpened. Savor a summer evening of sharing designed to stir your soul and strengthen your spiritual walk.

Send us a signal that you're ready to Sign up on Sundays or send an email to Steve! We will be discussing the book, "How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It" by Rev. Skip Heitzig. When you let us know your intention to participate, we will order the book for you. (\$7 donation if you're able.) We will also sign up to donate salads and slider sandwiches each week for us to enjoy together.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE AND ENJOY IT!

The book *How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It* by Skip Heitzig comprises eight chapters, each designed to guide readers through a comprehensive and engaging approach to Bible study. The chapters are as follows:

1. Deciphering the Bible
2. Finding the Right Tools
3. Getting Started
4. Observation: Opening Your Eyes
5. Interpretation: Opening Your Mind
6. God's Creative Writing
7. Application: Opening Your Heart
8. Practicing What We've Preached

These chapters collectively provide a structured framework for participants to delve into the Scriptures, emphasizing the importance of observation, interpretation, and application in the study process. This is not a Bible Study, but rather a fresh way to look at HOW we study God's Word to find greater meaning from the ancient word and our Still Speaking God. **Save the dates and sign up today** to take part in this special summer study series!

REDNER'S, GIANT & WEIS

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. 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.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of July, we are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, coffee, and canned baked beans. Any other non-perishable food items as well as monetary contributions are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary for you to place your food donations. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry on the 4th Monday of each month from 9am to 11am or 5:30pm to 8:00pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or 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, July 22**.

PEOPLE NEEDED TO SERVE ON "FUN-RAISING" COMMITTEE

Help is needed for anyone interested in serving on St. John's "Fun-Raising" Committee. If you have thoughts on ways to raise money for the church, ideas for new fundraisers, suggestions for current fundraisers, we need you to consider becoming part of this committee. For more information, contact chairperson Amy Feidler at (835) 210-5944 or email at alfeidler@gmail.com.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS

With the year half over, we can now offer these books to you at a reduced cost of only \$10. You'll find coupons for restaurants (both dining and fast food), clothing, sporting goods stores, businesses, fun & recreation activities & more. Checks are payable to St. John's. See Carol Raszler any Sunday morning before or after worship to make your purchase and to look over the book to find all the bargains available.

BACKPACKS, CALCULATORS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

We are collecting backpacks and school supplies for the children in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. A list of items was included in the July newsletter. A shopping list and a collection bin can be found on the table in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. In addition, there is also a **drive-by scheduled at the Grape Street parking lot on Saturday, July 19, from 10:00am to noon.** Deadline to receive items is Sunday, July 27.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS PICNIC

The adult Sunday School picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, beginning at 1:00pm at the Raszler's cabin near Schuylkill Haven—rain or shine. In addition, class members and friends who wish to camp outside are invited to stay the entire weekend. Hamburgers, hot dogs & beverages will be provided; however, each family is asked to bring a covered dish. RSVP to Carol at (610) 393-7572 or at craszler@aol.com no later than **Sunday, July 27**, to confirm who's coming and what covered dish you will be bringing. Further information and directions will be available in early July.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on **August 2 at 8:30am**, with Rev. George Eckstein. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at (610) 393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

We've all seen in the newspaper and on television the catastrophic flooding that occurred in Texas as well as other parts of the country. Reports show 129 people have been confirmed dead in Texas, including 27 campers and counselors at a Christian summer camp for girls. Hundreds of rescuers have been searching the areas for over 160 people still missing. The Disaster Ministries Team of the United Church of Christ is helping the victims of this disaster as well as giving support for the long-term recovery efforts. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, you can find Disaster Relief Fund envelopes on the table in the lounge. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton with "Severe Storms" in the memo section. The deadline to receive donations is Sunday, August 31.

♪ AN ANNOUNCEMENT MOST MUSICAL ♪

It is with no small amount of interest (and perhaps a raised eyebrow or two) that I bring you the season's most tantalizing development: The return of St. John's Music Ministry! Yes, the bells shall toll, the sopranos shall soar, and the altos, tenors, and basses shall sing the right notes without hesitation or delay.

Mark your dance cards, for the Season begins:

Thursday, August 21st, 2025 with both bells and choir!

♪ **Bell Ringers at 6:00 PM** — Those with a penchant for punctuality and polished hand-eye coordination are cordially invited to clamor melodiously. Gloves are a must. Drama discouraged.

♪ **Choir at 7:00 PM** — If you can carry a tune (or at least appear confident doing so), this is your cue to arrive, open your choral Folio, and dazzle heaven itself.

Who Should Attend?: Those whose voices are as angelic as the cherubim... or at least louder than the organ. Gentlemen brave enough to sing in the presence of altos. Altos brave enough to harmonize without stealing the spotlight from our Queens of the night. And anyone who has ever thought, "Well, how hard can it be to ring a bell?"

To inquire about additional information, you have two options, using the latest technology in what most readers will call an email, (*I prefer weekly correspondences by hand with scented stationary if possible*) to the director (music@sjfucc.org) preferably by the beginning of the current month so he does not have a fainting spell by people showing up or option 2, simply be bold and daring by presenting yourself on the aforementioned Thursday, (it may not win points from the director, but he will simply need to get over it) follow the sound of voices, and declare with great conviction: “I have come to make a joyful noise.”

Your fearless Maestro,
Lord Whistledown
AKA: Patrick

ST JOHN’S CONNECTION CLASS

Our next Connection Class sessions for those who would like to make St. John’s their faith home will be Session 1 - Sunday, August 17 at 11am, or Monday, August 18 at 7pm; or Session 2 - Wednesday, August 20 at 11am and Sunday, August 24 at 11am, to be received on Sunday, September 21! Participants need only attend 2 of the 4 opportunities, either on site at St. John’s or online.

If you’ve been thinking of making your connection with St. John’s more “official,” contact the Church Office or let Pastor Steve know.

“Whoever you are and wherever you may be on life’s journey, you are... **WELCOME HERE!**”

**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27 – AUGUST 3**

Sun 7/27	9:30 am	Outdoor Worship
Tues 7/29	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 7/30	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Summer Book Study
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARS
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Sat 8/2	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 8/3	9:30 am	Worship, Communion

OUR STAFF

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