

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 28, 2024
10th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am Worship**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Penn NE Conference 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.*

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

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Community Yard Sale – Saturday, August 10
8am - 2pm at the Pavilion.
- “Many Hands Make Light Work!” Saturday, August 17
9am-12pm, FLOWERBED CLEAN-UP DAY
- 5G Connection – New Members Class (2 Sessions)
Session 1 - W/Th Aug. 21 (11am) OR 22 (7pm) and
Session 2 - S/M Aug. 25 (11am) OR 26 (7pm)
all 4 on Zoom
- Lehigh Valley Pride – August 18, 2-7pm
Bethlehem Steel Stacks – PNEC Volunteers needed

***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

Meditation on “Largo”

Dvorak, Arr. by K. Meyer

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

Adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock

One: Children of God, you are welcome here. With your regrets and failings, you are welcome here.

All: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

One: Many of us find it easy to recognize our goodness and difficult to notice our faults.

All: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

One: Others of us live under a shroud of guilt and shame, believing we can never be good enough to receive the fullness of God's love.

All: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

One: As we worship in this place, know this: we are loved, accepted, and called. May God's love draw us to honest confession; God's acceptance assures us of the work of grace in our lives; God's call compels us to live in grace.

All: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God who loves us, accepts us, and calls us. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

As We Gather at Your Table

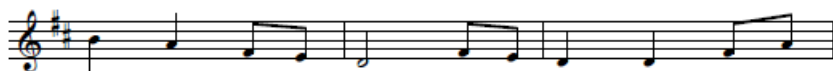
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

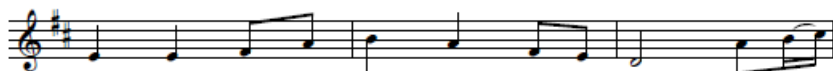
As We Gather at Your Table



1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness In the
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon Oth - er



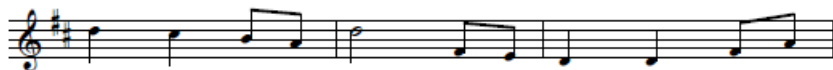
lis - ten to your Word, Help us know, O God, your
sac - ra - ment of life; Send us forth to love and
guests to share that feast Where tri - um - phant Love will



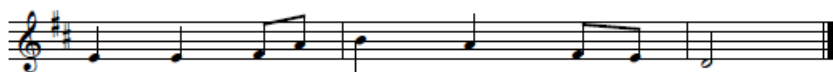
pres - ence: Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish
serve you, Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,
wel - come Those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we
Christ, your great com - pas - sion To for -
more will en - vy blind us Nor will



claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; May we still be - hold your
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and



ban - quet How to make Love's vic - tory known.
im - age In the world you died to save.
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. b. 1944; © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: NETTLETON, § 7 & 7 D, Weyrich's *Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II*, 1813

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

One: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(Time for silent prayer.)

All: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Make us your partners. Empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Michael Borgman

One: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us remember this surpassing grace.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Rev. Steve Davis

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

Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Verses 1, 2, and 3

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Scripture Reading

John 6:1-21

Reader: Barbara Menges

**Please rise as you are able for the reading of God's Word*

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

**Complicated Relationships:
I Believe in the God of Miracles**

Let Us Break Bread Together



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: American folk hymn
Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD, 10 10 6 8 7; American folk hymn; harm. by David Hurd, b.1950

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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

Melody: Duke Street

**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: Michael Borgman

All: Loving God, as we present our gifts, may we also recognize you as the source of every good and perfect gift of grace in our lives. May we have the courage to bring all we are and all we have for your great blessing. May we embrace the truth that little becomes much when placed in your hands. Amen.

We Serve

***Sending Hymn** *Praise to the Lord, Almighty*
found on page 7 of the bulletin

Verses 1 and 2

*Benediction

Rev. Davis

*Postlude

Last Verse on Lobe Den Herren
Noel Rawethorne
Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

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.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the king of cre -
2. Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so might - i - ly
3. Praise to the Lord, who shall pros - per our work and de -
4. Praise to the Lord— O let all that is in us a -



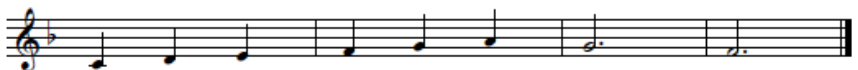
a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for
reign - ing; Keep - ing us safe at his
fend - us; Sure - ly his good - ness and
dore him! All that has life and breath



he is your health and sal - va - tion!
side, and so gent - ly sus - tain - ing.
mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend us.
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Come, all who hear: Broth - ers and sis - ters, draw near,
Have you not seen All you have need - ed has been
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can do,
Let the "A - men!" Sound from his peo - ple a - gain—



Praise him in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
Met by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
Who with his love will be - friend us.
Glad - ly with praise we a - dore him!

Text: *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König*; Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 14 14 47 8; *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665; descant by C. S. Lang, 1891-1971

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Our Summer Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30am Adult Faith Formation – First Sunday of the month

- Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Children's Faith Formation – First Sunday of the month

9:30 Worship Service

- with Sunday Social time following worship

Attendance – July 21

Onsite – 87 Online – 16

Serving in Worship Leadership

July 28

Liturgist – Michael Borgman Scripture Reader – Barbara Menges

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour – LeeAnn Lopez and Nancy Keister

Ushers – Carole O’Connell and Pamela Repetz

August 4

Liturgist – Sharon Antrim Scripture Reader – Barbara Seeds

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour – Nancy Bowman and Carol Raszler

Ushers – Members of the Consistory

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, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Rick Borgman, Joshua Davis and parents, Jacob Davis and Hayley Torres, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Jim and Janet Ebert, Tracey Glass, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Judy Luckenbill, Gayle Mihulec, Rev. Dave and Grace Mohr, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Marietta Seyfried, Leona Snyder, Barry Stephens, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio, Kaden Rossanese, and Nathan Unger.

Pray for fire victims across the west coast. Pray for those war torn nations, hostages and all the innocents killed and suffering. Pray for our national political and theological divisions and pray for the will to stand against blatant racism and sexism and the rise of White Christian Nationalism.

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.

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 **Tues., August 27**.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

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 3 at 8:30 a.m.** We would be please 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.

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Today's the last day for receiving donations of backpacks and school supplies for the Whitehall-Coplay School District. A collection bin can be found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

You'll find lots of treasures and bargains at our Community Yard Sale on **Saturday, August 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Pavilion**. Spaces are still available at \$15 for a church table; \$10 if you bring your own table. Checks are payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton. Forms are available on the website or on the table in lounge area. Payment must accompany form and sent into church office or given to Brian Strauss. All payments are final and non-refundable. Any questions, contact Brian Strauss at (610) 248-9119 or Strauss1975@aol.com.

"KEEPING YOU IN STITCHES"

St. John's crafters will be at the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by and make your purchases of our wonderful assortment of household and holiday decorations, kitchen supplies, and baby items.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS PICNIC

Our Friendship Bible Class (adult faith formation class) has scheduled its **Annual Class Picnic for Saturday, August 17, beginning at 1:00 p.m.** at Bill Fink's campsite near Topton/Mertztown—rain or shine. Those who wish to camp outside are invited to stay from Friday to Sunday. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish. It would be helpful if you also brought lawn chairs. RSVP to Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or at craszler@aol.com to confirm who's attending and what dish you will be bringing.

WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S

It's a simple thing to do! Buy Giant & Weis gift cards, and the church receives 5% back. Save the register tapes from Redner's, and the church receives 1% back. Cards can also be used to purchase gas as well. Get your gift cards from the office or by seeing Tom Moyer & Carol Raszler every Sunday before or after worship. A collection jar for the tapes is on the table in the lounge area.

DINE & DONATE NIGHT AT COPPERHEAD GRILL

Come to Copperhead Grill located at 1731 Airport Rd., Allentown, on Thursday, August 15, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. St. John's will receive 15% of the sales. A flyer is needed and can be found on the website or on the table in the lounge. For more information, contact Mike Borgman at 610-762-8959 or email at blackbear402@rcn.com

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of July, we are collecting:

**macaroni and cheese, canned corn, canned tuna,
peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix and pancake syrup.**

Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted. For more information or to volunteer on the 4th Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

In just a few weeks, the music ministry of St. John's will reassemble from a much-needed break that included relaxation and I am sure many worldly travels. What a most splendid way to welcome the fall months! The year ahead promises to be the most splendid of seasons and word has gotten back to this author that YOUR involvement would be most welcome. Patrick, our Choir Director, not to be confused with Task Master, is now accepting applications for all musical positions.

There are some qualifications to consider for these positions of course, they are as followed:

- **Physical Qualifications:** Must be able to carry light musical note's part way across the church. Must also have sufficient vision to see the director twenty feet away.
- **Experience:** No applications will be accepted from people who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower.
- **Wages:** Satisfaction and joy in God's service
- **Fringe Benefits:** The promise of having the security of social fellowship with other members of the choir.
- **Vacation:** Missed rehearsals and church services are primarily a matter of conscience and ability to return the glares and pointed remarks of the director and other choir members.
- **Retirement:** There is no particular age, but is generally determined by printed notes getting too small, notes too high to sing, church too hot or cold, or the choir director is simply unable to play the notes you sing in a timely fashion or gets lost in which page is being sung.

If you are interested in participating with this wonderful group or finding out additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Sandt, either through writing a letter to sifmusic@sjuccf.org or by ringing him at 484-241-2050.

Church Calendar for the Week of July 28 through August 4

Sun 7/28	9:30 am	Worship/VBS Sunday
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Tues 7/30	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 7/31	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Sat 8/3	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast, Hamilton Family Restaurant
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 8/4	8:30 am	Fellowship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour

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 financialsecretary@sjuccf.org custodians@sjuccf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjuccf.org newsletter@sjuccf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net