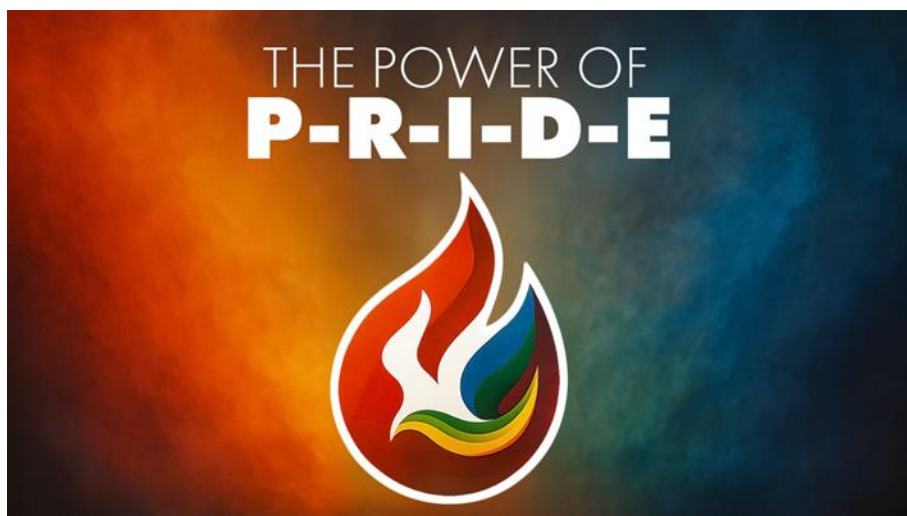




St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

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



**June 22, 2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Second 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

Rev. Steve Davis

- Vacation Bible School, June 22-26, 6:00-8:00pm
- Open & Affirming Sunday, June 29
- SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL!
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm beginning on July 2 & 9, 23 & 30, August 6 & 13
"How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It! (See pg. 10-11)
- General Synod Expense (See pg. 12)
- Summer Choir—Open to all interested in singing on July 13. For additional information, please see page 11
- Sponsorship Forms are now available for July through September.

***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

Rest

Heather Sorenson

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

All: You are our God; all the good things come from you alone.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance, and surrounds us with abundance.

All: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

All: You are our God; we will not be shaken. Let us worship God together!

***Gathering Hymn**

Praise and Thanksgiving
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Loving God, we yearn to be close to you and to dwell in your ever-present love. Be with us now as we come before you with these our humble prayers, as we now pray.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

All: Merciful God, wipe away our fears. Comfort us in our regrets. Forgive our mistakes. Strengthen us with healing and hope. Draw us so close to you that we may never question your presence or have reason to be afraid. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Before faith, we were locked away in our fear. But faith is ours through the grace of Christ. In this grace, we are no longer chained;

All: We are no longer bound by regrets, or sin. We are freed with love, freed to love, and freed to be loved. Thanks be to God, Amen!

Praise and Thanksgiving

722

Unison C

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer you;
 2 God bless the la - bor we bring to serve you;
 3 You are pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren,
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - ery peo - ple,

for all things liv - ing, you have made good:
 that with our neigh - bor we may be fed.
 your wis - dom guid - ing teach - es us share
 all lands con - fess - ing your gra - cious hand.

har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the or - chard,
 Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work with you;
 one with an - oth - er so that, re - joic - ing,
 Where you are reign - ing no one will hun - ger,

hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 oth - ers may know you and praise your care.
 your love sus - tain - ing, fruit - ful the land.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt.
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

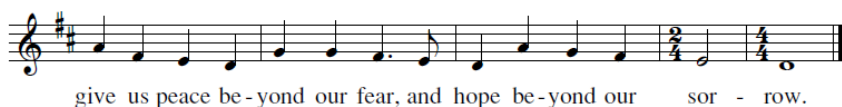
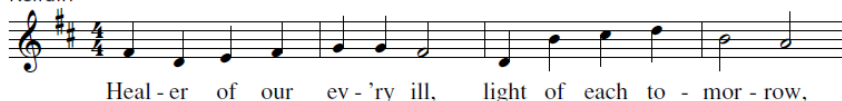
Words © 1988 Oxford University Press
 Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Hymn

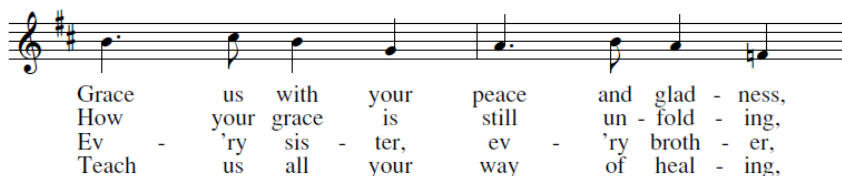
Healer of our Every Ill
Verses 1 and 2

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain



Verses



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

***Scripture Reading:**

Luke 8:26-39

Read by: Mike Gravely

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

**The Power of P.R.I.D.E.
The Power of Declaring**

Song of Praise

My Wordless Prayer, Craig Courtney
Soloist: Joy Gravely

*My words lie still and lifeless as dust upon the sand, I can no longer voice
on request or one demand. My cup of tears is empty, I can no longer cry, My
lips have fallen silent, my prayer is but a sigh.*

*Spirit, come and rest your ear upon my heart; O Come and hear my
wordless prayer, my silent plea and take them far away from me. Take them
from this heart of mine to the Father's heart divine. Speak in tones unknown
to man that God may hear and understand.*

*My voice is weak from calling to you both night and day. How long will You
be silent? Why do you turn away?*

*Spirit, come and rest your ear upon my heart; O Come and hear my
wordless prayer, my silent plea and take them far away from me. Take them
from this heart of mine to the Father's heart divine. Speak in tones unknown
to man that God may hear and understand.*

*Spirit, come and rest Your ear upon my heart; O come and hear my wordless
prayer, my silent plea and take them far away from me. Take them from this
heart of mine to the Father's heart divine. Speak in tones unknown to man
that God may hear and understand.*

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Steve 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

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

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

All: Healer of life's illness, bring healing and strength
through the gifts we bring before you now. Bring hope,
faith, and love, that our church may be an instrument of
healing and a vessel of hope for a hurting world. Amen.

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West
All Verses

found on page 8

*Benediction

Rev. Davis

*Postlude

Joy in My Soul
Mark Hayes

In Christ There Is No East or West 339

F C Dm C7 F Gm Am C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
 2 In him shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mun - ion find;
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith; we are God's chil - dren all.
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north;

C Dm F Bb C7 F Bb C7 F

but one great fel - low-ship of love through-out the whole wide earth.
 his serv - ice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 As fam - 'ly with the ris - en Christ, we share a com - mon call.
 all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

*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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Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

*During the Summer months, June, July and August,
 Adult and Children's Faith Formation activities take a break
 with special opportunities announced. We look forward to coming
 together again on September 7.*

Attendance – June 15 – Trinity
 Onsite – 74 Online - 36

2nd Sunday after Pentecost, June 22

Lectionary Readings

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a and Psalm 42 and 43

Isaiah 65:1-9 and Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29 and Luke 8:26-39

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Michael Gravely

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Greeter: Marion DeMilio

Ushers: Marion DeMilio and Cindy Reck

3rd Sunday after Pentecost/

Open and Affirming Sunday, June 29

Lectionary Readings

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 and Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 and Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 and Luke 9:51-62

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

Scripture Reader: DonnaLee Yeatts

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Wayne Litchenberger

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan, Corrina Schneck

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, Diana Beck, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Rob Czekner, Meagan Davis and baby Elishah (Steve and Bill's daughter), Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Lynn Gilbert, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Joy and Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Joanne Hower, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Judy Luckenbill, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Madeline Slivka, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, 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.

SUMMER CHOIR

Calling all singers! If a weekly commitment is too hard for you, consider joining the music ministry for our Summer Choir. It would involve two rehearsals (July 3rd and July 10th) and then singing on Sunday, July 13th. If interested, please contact Patrick at music@sjuccf.org

SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL!

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

July 2 & 9, 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.

"STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH"

This special offering of UCC National furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as they work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The contributions are divided with 50% staying regionally within our own conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries of the UCC. Special offering envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area and will be received until the end of June.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of June, we are collecting cereal, pork & beans, and canned fruit. 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.

OCEAN CITY BUS TRIP

Unfortunately, the trip to Ocean City had to be cancelled due to not enough people signing up and paying by the due date. Our deposit will be transferred to the December trip to New York City. If anyone is interested in having your paid funds held for the NYC trip, please contact Brian Fisher or Amy Feidler.

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, June 24**.

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.

GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE – Special Offerings

This year, the PNEC has selected both Rev. Steve Davis and Tyler Shankweiler to represent our conference at the national level of our global denomination, July 11-15, in Kansas City, Missouri. The PNEC will reimburse travel, food and General Synod expenses by 50% for all delegates. To help offset the expense for Pastor Steve and Tyler, for the communion Sundays of May, June and July, we will have a special offering plate and envelopes available for your donations. Contributions may also be made online or shared any Sunday, noting General Synod Expense. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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.

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 **July 5 at 8:30am**. 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.

ATTENTION: BASKET SOCIAL WINNERS

If you won a basket and don't need that empty basket or if there is any item in it that you will never use, we ask you to return them to the church to be used for a future event. Please bring them to the office or to worship and give to Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

CHURCH CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 22 – JUNE 29

Sun 6/22	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Worship at the Pavilion VBS
Mon 6/23	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Preschool Camp VBS
Tues 6/24	9:00 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm	Preschool Camp Staff Meeting VBS
Wed 6/25	9:00 am 9:00 am 12 noon 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Verso Chat Preschool Camp Painting Group Painting Group VBS STARS SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 6/26	9:00 am 6:00pm	Preschool Camp VBS
Fri 6/27	9:00 am	Preschool Camp
Sat 6/28	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 6/29	9:30 am	Worship

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjuccf.org
Director of Music	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	Christina Bach iron1@verizon.net