



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 29, 2025
9:30am**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

**Second Sunday after Pentecost
Open and Affirming Sunday**

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**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

- **SUMMER SUPPER SHARING FOR THE SOUL!**
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm beginning on July 2 & 9, 23 & 30, August 6 & 13, with mid-week Faith Formation guide, "How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It! (See pg. 11-12)
- **Summer Choir**—Open to all interested in singing on July 13. For additional information, please see page 11
- **Men's Breakfast** July 5, 8:30am at Hamilton Family Restaurant, with Rev. Todd Fennell, speaker! Come join us and bring a friend!

***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

I Choose Love

Mark Miller

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: From ancient times to this present day, people have gathered in sacred spaces like this one.

All: Moments of time fold together when we immerse ourselves in love and connection.

One: We ask for Divine Love to be revealed to us in this gathering.

All: We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine Presence.

One: We listen for sacred whisperings and await holy joy to be written on our hearts.

All: Being truly ourselves, we come together in this eternal moment.

One: We bring our prayers to you as one community, one assembled body.

All: Straight, Cisgendered, Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally. Beloved people of God. We come, and we pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus.

***Gathering Hymn**

All Colors of the Rainbow
Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3

A Litany of Hope and Struggle

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Because injustice can break the most eager spirit and force the abandonment of dreams...

All: We hold tenderly our sisters and brothers and grieve the loss of vibrancy and faith.

One: Because fear can overwhelm goodness and silence those whom God has called...

All: We denounce the betrayal of God's own and announce our resolve to speak the truth of our lives.

continues on page 4

All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw

ABBOT'S LEIGH
Cyril V. Taylor

1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,
 2. All the bo - dy's parts are wan-ted, nor can one de - spise the rest:
 3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:
 4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.

but their splen - dours find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;
 head and hand must work to - get - ther, as must eye and ear and chest;
 Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie den, Mir.
 Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.

so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:
 so the church needs all its mem-bers for a range of min - i - stries:
 Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:
 May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,

breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.
 var - ied gifts with one great mis-sion, "Do this for the least of these."
 long - ing for the end of con - flict and a new life in God's Sha - lom.
 and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

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One: Because hate destroys the human heart and limits the wonders of love...

All: We open ourselves to compassion and offer our lives as witnesses to the healing presence of God.

One: Because complacency gives consent to systems that oppress and harm...

All: We refuse to cede our world to hurtful powers and dare to dream new creations into being.

One: Because courage in the face of fear and injustice is a holy deed...

All: We celebrate the passion that chooses life in the midst of violence and claims the goodness of human dignity with power and grace.

One: Because hope in a world of complacency and hate is a sacred act of resistance...

All: We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today proclaim:

Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.

Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.

Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Now and ever, Amen.

**Children's Message
VBS Kids Singing**

Rev. Steve Davis

Hymn

When the Poor Ones
All Verses

***Scripture Reading:**

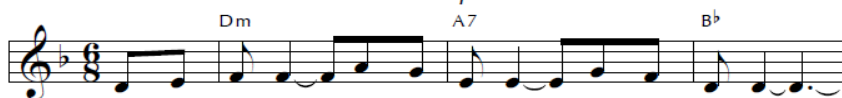
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Read by: DonnaLee Yeatts

scripture found on page 6

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When the Poor Ones

Cuando el pobre

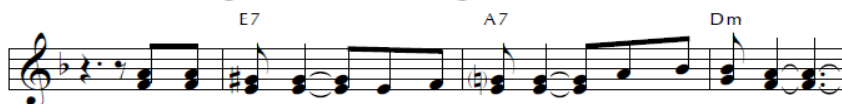
1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,
 2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,
 4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,

1 Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,
 2 Cuan - do un hom - bre su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo,
 3 Cuan - do cre - ce la a - le - gría y nos i - nun - da,
 4 Cuan - do a - bun - da el bien y lle - na los ho - ga - res,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,
 when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,
 when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,

cuan - do un hom - bre pa - sa sed y a - gua nos da,
 cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe - rar,
 cuan - do di - cen nues - tros la - bios la ver - dad,
 cuan - do un hom - bre don - de hay gue - rra po - ne paz,



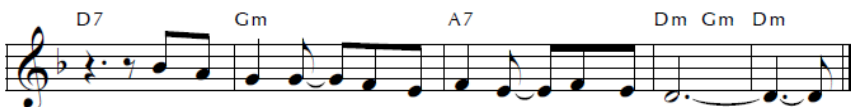
when the crip - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,
 when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,
 when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,

cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro - dé - e,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos el sen - tir de los sen - ci - llos,
 cuan - do "her - ma - no" le lla - ma - mos al ex - tra - ño,

Refrain / Estribillo



then we know that God still goes that road with us,
 va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.



then we know that God still goes that road with us.
 Va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, He said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

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

Soloist: Emily Szuter

I dream of a world where everyone is welcome, I dream of a place we all can call home. I dream of a world where justice is flowing with hope and peace growing, where love's work is done.

Make it so, make it so! We long for the day, make it so! We dream of a world where peace reigns among us, and love's work is done: may we make it so!

May love fill our hearts to reach out in welcome, and help us to see our neighbor once more. Let's dream of a world where my hand joins your hand, working together, we must make it so.

Make it so, make it so! We long for the day, make it so! We dream of a world where peace reigns among us, and love's work is done: may we make it so!

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: Dewey Yeatts

**All: Liberating God, who calls us to true freedom, we offer
these gifts as signs of our commitment to live by the
Spirit's leading. May our generosity reflect your love
that is joyful, peaceful, patient, and kind. In Christ's
name, we pray. Amen.**

We Serve

***Closing Hymn**

We Are the Church Alive
All Verses

Verses 1 and 2, then interlude, Verse 3
found on page 9

***Benediction**

Rev. Davis

***Postlude**

March in D Major
Phil Lehenbauer

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

We Are the Church Alive

1. We are the Church A-live, Christ's pres-ence on this earth; We
 2. We are the Church A-live, Our faith has set us free; No
 3. We are the Church A-live, All praise to God on high. Cre-

give God's Spi-rit bo-dy in the act of our new birth. As
 more en-slaved by guilt and shame we live our li-ber-ty! We
 a-tor, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er! We laud and mag-ni-fy Your

yield-ed o-pen chan-nels for God's de-scend-ing dove, We
 fol-low Christ's ex-am-ple and free-dom now pro-claim, De-
 name, Al-might-y God of love; Pray, give us life that we May

shout and sing, with joy we bring God's all in-clu-sive love.
 stroy-ing myths of doubt and fear in Je-sus' might-y name.
 be your Church, the Church A-live, For all e-ter-ni-ty.

TEXT: Jack Hoggatt-St. John and David Pelletier, 1980

MUSIC: Jack Hoggatt-St. John, 1980

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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

Attendance –June 22

Onsite – 63 Online – 51

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, Wayne Litchenberger

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan, Corrina Schneck

4th Sunday after Pentecost, July 6

Lectionary Readings

2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30

Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 and Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: DonnaLee Yeatts

Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Ushers/Greeters: Sharon Antrim, Robin Brensinger, Charlotte

Kerrigan, Kathy Roth

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, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Martha Strauss, and George Williams.

We pray for the family of Madeline Slivka, whose funeral was this past Thursday.

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.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

This will be the last week for the prayer list as recorded above. Next week, we will start a new list! If you would like a name on the prayer list in the bulletin to recur weekly, please let the office know this week.

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 both beginning at 6:30PM) 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, 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.

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**, with our speaker, Rev. Todd Fennell. 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 29 – JULY 6

Sun 6/29	9:30 am	Worship
Tues 7/1	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed 7/2	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Mission Committee
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 7/3	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Choir
Fri 7/4		Office Closed – July 4th
Sat 7/5	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 7/6	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
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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
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Custodian	Eric McWilliams ericmcwill1@hotmail.com