

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Forming Family

Joy, Compassion, Forgiveness & Love

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

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/
Open and Affirming Sunday**

June 28, 2026

9:30am

We Worship

*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 **July 5** and **August 2** as our kitchen leaders and volunteers take a break during the summer months.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice ***NC—New Century Hymnal***
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*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steve Davis

- June 28 – Honoring Alison Boor’s Retirement in Worship
- July 4 – 250th US Independence Celebration in Worship
- July 12 – Funds Due for July 25 Ocean City Bus Trip

Sharing Our Experience of the Keystone Conference

Revs. Janet Boyd and Bob Stevens

***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

Never Be Afraid
James Michael Stevens

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Beloved, some of us came here tired, or carrying grief.
Some of us came with joy in our bones and rainbows in our spirit. In a world that tries to erase queer stories,

All: We shall not be moved.

One: In a time when trans and nonbinary lives are targeted, when fear tells us to be silent, when shame tries to pull us from the truth of who God made us to be,

All: We shall not be moved.

One: We are rooted in love.

All: We are rooted in justice.

One: We are rooted in affirmation.

All: We are rooted in God.

One: Come, let us worship the God who sees the vulnerable, strengthens the weary, and calls the church into holy courage.

All: Rooted in love, justice, and affirmation, we worship with joy. We worship with courage. We worship together.

***Opening Hymn**

All Are Welcome
Verses 1, 4, and 5

found on page 3

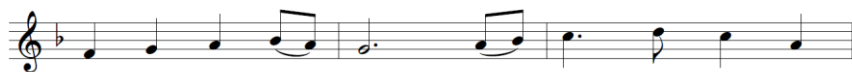
Open and Affirming Gathering Prayer Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

All: Holy and Liberating God, You gather us in all our colors, all our names, all our bodies, all our beauty. You gather the loud and the quiet, the certain and the questioning, the joyful and the grieving, the healed and the healing. Root us in love that does not flinch. Root us in justice that does not back down. Root us in affirmation that refuses to whisper what should be shouted. Let this worship be sanctuary and spark. Let it be balm for the wounded and fire for the faithful. Let it remind us that we are yours, and because we are yours, we shall not be moved. Amen.

All Are Welcome



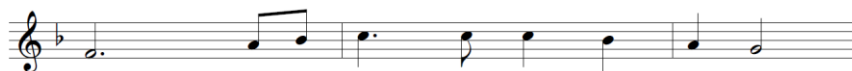
1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: This is Christ's table... where the outcast finds welcome, the forgotten are remembered, and the rejected are restored. No one is excluded because of who they love, how they express their gender, or the story they carry. Trusting in God's radical, inclusive grace, let us bring our whole, authentic selves — our joy, our grief, and our shortcomings — to the light, and confess our sins before God and one another.

Time for Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

All: God of love and justice, we confess that we have not always loved as you call us to love. We confess the harm done in your name: the exclusion, shame, silence, and fear that have wounded your beloved children. We confess, too, the ways we all fall short: choosing comfort over courage, silence over justice, and fear over love. Forgive us. Transform us. Root us again in love, justice, and affirmation. Make us a church where all people are safe, celebrated, and truly belong. In the name of Jesus, who welcomed all with courageous love, we pray. Amen.

Sung Response

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

George Whelpton (1847-1930)

$\text{♩} = 90$

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-cline thine ear to us, and

7

grant us thy peace. A - - men.

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the staff, with a measure rest (7) before the final line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts

One: Beloved, hear this good news: God does not abandon us to shame. God does not leave us in the wilderness. God does not ask us to sacrifice our *beloved-ness* in order to be faithful.

All: **God's grace is still rising. God's Spirit is still making the church new. May we stand tall and breathe deep. We are forgiven. We are beloved. We are free. Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Rev. Steve Davis/Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn WR #559

Here I Am Lord
Verses 1 and 2

*Scripture Reading:

Read by: Samantha Kistler

Psalms 89: 1-4, 15-18

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'"

Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long and extol your righteousness. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Romans 6:12-23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads

to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness.

I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

Forming Family: In Love

Hymn of Praise

Give Me A Name

All Verses

found on page 7

We Love

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. Steve 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

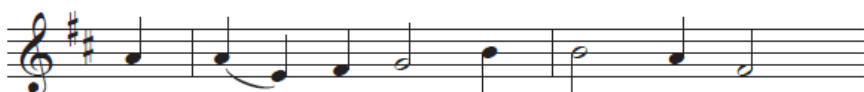
GIVE ME A NAME

Hannah C. Brown

WOODWORTH
William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



1. Give me a name that's fresh and free
2. Give me a heart that's brave and new,
3. Give me a joy that's sure and sweet
4. Give me a path be - yond the past



and fit - ting for who I will be;
a ten - der - ness that's tried and true;
to share my - self, sin - cere, com - plete.
to ven - ture forth at peace at last;



God, bless with ho - ly pow'r and grace
God, save my soul from shame and scorn;
God, spur me on to spark and shine;
God, help me trust your cease - less claim:



my self, my scars, my form, my face.
I need your love to be re - born.
show forth in me with light di - vine.
just as I am, I bear your name.

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: God of abundant love, we present these offerings as symbols of our diverse and beautiful community. Bless what we give and what we hold, so that our resources may grow into shelter for the outcast, courage for the fearful, and justice for all. May our generosity reflect your boundless welcome. Amen

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

We Are the Church Alive
All Verses

found on page 9

*Benediction

Rev. Steve Davis

*Postlude

A Joyful Jig
Patricia Lou Harris

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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Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship

*During 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 6.*

Sunday Social will be held the first Sundays of July and August

Attendance June 21
Onsite – 76 Online – 40

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 28/ Open and Affirming Sunday

Lectionary Readings

*Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11 and Matthew 10:24-39*

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Dewey Yeatts Scripture Reader: Samantha Kistler
Worship Tech: Bill Castello Greeter: Kim Hillegass
Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 5

Lectionary Readings

*Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25 and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler
Scripture Readers: DonnaLee and Dewey Yeatts
Worship Tech: Bill Castello Altar Guild: Corrina Purdon
Greeters and Ushers: Consistory

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, Charlie Apple, Gracie Arnold, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Nicholas Bach, Tammy Beitzel, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass, Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held,

Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, JoAnn Hower, Barbara Jennings, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bobby Sherman, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, Pat Thompson 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.

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 or 610-428-9095.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be held this year on **Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31**. Keep an eye on your Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters – more news is coming!

OCEAN CITY, NJ BUS TRIP

Join St. John's for a day trip to Ocean City, NJ on Saturday, July 25th! The cost is \$50 per person. Epic Tours will depart from the church parking lot at 8:00 AM and will leave Ocean City at 7:00 PM for the return trip. Beach tags are \$10 for anyone age 12 and older. Children 11 and under are free. Active-duty military members and veterans receive free beach admission with proper military or veteran ID. Please sign up on the sheet located on the red board and see me, Michelle G., or any member of the fundraising committee to submit payment. The deadline to sign up and submit payment is Sunday, July 12th.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the months of June and July, we are collecting **pancake mix, pancake syrup, pasta, canned corn, and coffee**. Any other food donations as well as monetary donations are always welcome. Your donations can be placed in the shopping card found in the coatroom area next to the sanctuary. 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.

GIANT, WEIS, REDNER'S

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. 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.

ST. JOHN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

DEARLY BELOVED,
THE WAIT IS OVER.

THE 2026/2027
Music Ministry
SEASON
HAS ARRIVED.

PREPARE YOUR VOICES. POLISH YOUR BELLS.
IT IS TIME TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

HANDBELLS
BEGIN REHEARSAL
TUESDAY,
AUGUST 18TH
AT 6:00PM
IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

*"No need to be a "ring" leader—
we'll teach you!"*

CHOIR
BEGIN REHEARSAL
THURSDAY,
AUGUST 20TH
AT 6:30PM
IN THE MUSIC ROOM

*All are welcome—
no auditions, just a willing heart!*

DEAR READER,
Whether you can carry a tune or only
shower sing (we won't tell),
there is a place for you in our Music Ministry!
Come, lend your gifts, and let us lift our
praises together.

TO BECOME INVOLVED,
PLEASE EMAIL
Music@sjuccf.org
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE,
EXTENSION 13.

LET US SING, RING, AND PRAISE WITH
GRACE, JOY, AND A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE.

YOURS TRULY,
Lord Whistledown

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets the first Saturday of every month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. However, because of the 4th of July holiday, we will meet next on **July 11 at 8:30am**. Rev. Cliff Herring will be the guest speaker. We would

be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Pastor Steve.

BASEBALL AT IRONPIGS

Thank you to almost 50 people who reserved seats at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. RailRiders baseball game on **Tuesday, August 11**, at 6:45 p.m. It'll also be "Dollar Dog Night" where hotdogs are \$1 all night long. Park information, game tickets, and food vouchers will be distributed to everyone by mid-July. If you have any questions, see Carol Raszler.

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 for you to bring in your donations. In addition, there is also a **drive-by scheduled at the Pavilion on Thursday, July 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** See Carol Raszler if you have any questions. **Deadline to receive items is Sunday, July 26.**

BASKET SOCIAL WINNERS

If you don't need that empty basket or container or if there is any item in your basket 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 them to Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28 – JULY 5

Sun 6/28	9:30 am	Worship
Tues 6/30	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
Wed 7/1	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 7/2	9:30 am	Visitation Committee
Fri 7/3		Office Closed – July 4
Sat 7/4	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 7/5	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday Social Hour

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JUNE 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	17,605.73
Overall Percent	78.2%

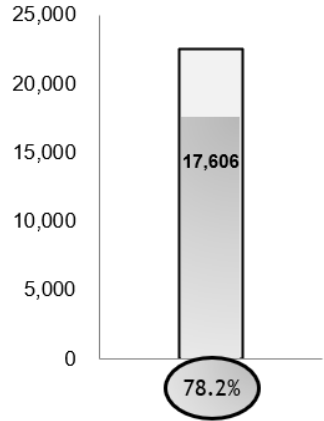
Last Week	
Start:	6/21/26
End:	6/27/26
Total:	2,290.00

Amt needed to reach Target

JUNE 2026	4,894.27
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



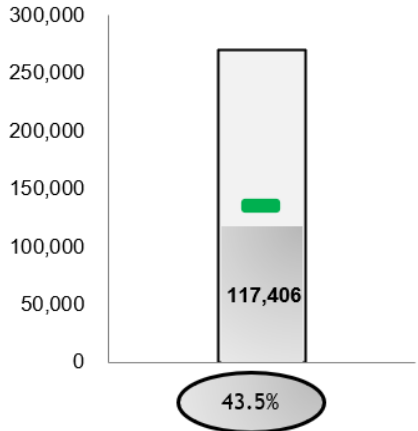
YTD OFFERINGS

JUNE 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	135,000.00
Overall Total	117,405.73
Overall Percent	43.5%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler samanthamkistler@gmail.com
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St. John’s Christian Early Learning Center Director	Jazmin Smith staff@stjohnslearningcenter.com 610-443-0254