

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



## Forming Family

Joy, Compassion, Forgiveness & Love

---

Sermon:  
Samantha Kistler

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

**Second Sunday after Pentecost  
June 7, 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***  
*All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted under  
OneLicense #A-735634*

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

## **Chimes**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Samantha Kistler

- Keystone Conference in Worship – 11:00am
- June 12 – Gift Card Bingo celebrating Flag Day
- June 13 – Men’s Breakfast at Hamilton Family Restaurant
- June 28 – Honoring Alison Boor’s Retirement in Worship

## **\*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 for Prayer*  
Arr. by John Turner

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere  
*based on Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

One: The Lord calls out to the unexpected, saying, "Follow me."

**All: We come, for Christ came to call not the righteous, but sinners!**

One: In the middle of our crowds and our deepest desperation, Jesus is present.

**All: With faith as small as the hem of his cloak, we reach out for his healing.**

One: Jesus looks upon us with compassion, saying, "Take heart, your faith has made you well."

**All: In the midst of our brokenness and fear, Christ brings us new life.**

One: Let us come into the presence of the Great Physician, our Healer, with joyful and expectant hearts.

**All: Let us worship the Lord!**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

*The Master Came to Bring Good News*  
Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 3*

**Affirmation of Faith**

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

**All: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth.**

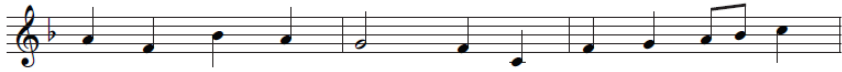
**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

# The Master Came to Bring Good News



1. The Mas - ter came to bring good news, The  
2. The Law's ful - filled through Je - sus Christ, The  
3. To seek the sin - ners Je - sus came, To  
4. For - give us, Lord, as we for - give And



news of love and free - dom, To heal the sick and  
man who lived for oth - ers. The law of Christ is:  
live a - mong the friend - less, To show them love that  
seek to help each oth - er. For - give us, Lord, and



seek the poor, To build the peace - ful king - dom.  
Serve in love Our sis - ters and our broth - ers.  
they might share The king - dom that is end - less.  
we shall live To pray and work to - geth - er.



Fa - ther, for - give us! Through Je - sus hear us!



As we for - give one an - oth - er!

Text: Ralph Finn, b.1941, © 1965, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: ICH GLAUB AN GOTT, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Mainz *Gesangbuch*, 1870

## Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

**One:** God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

### *Time for Silent Prayer*

## Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

**All:** **Almighty God, You have set before us the path, but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way. Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.**

## Sung Response

### Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

*George Whelpton (1847-1930)*

$\text{♩} = 90$

The musical notation is written on a single 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 of 7 measures before the second line of music. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-cline thine ear to us, and  
7  
grant us thy peace. A - - men.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

**One:** Here is the good news: God has not wavered in keeping the covenant of grace, of hope, of mercy, of life.

**All:** **By God's grace, we are forgiven; by God's healing, we are made whole; by God's constant love, we are restored to life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Children's Message

Samantha Kistler

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

## Hymn WR #350

*The Summons*  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

**\*Scripture Reading:**

Read by: Regi Mohr

*Romans 4: 13-16*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

Samantha Kistler

**Forming Family: Joy at the Table Together**

**Song of Praise**

*This We Pray*

Soloist: Joy Gravely

# We Love

**Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer**

Samantha Kistler

*(Requests shared from the entry table basket)*

**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**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2026.*

**We Are an Inclusive Community!**

**In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “Open Communion.”**

**ALL persons are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.**

**In The UCC, ALL means ALL!**

**The Invitation to Receive**

Samantha Kistler/  
Rev. Becca Stephens

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Gracious and loving God, you created the heavens and the earth and formed us in your image to live in communion with you and one another.

**All: When we wandered from your ways, you did not abandon us. Again and again, you called your people home, speaking through prophets, poets, and servants of faith, reminding us that your mercy is wider than the sea and your grace deeper than our need.**

One: You invite the weary, the brokenhearted, the joyful, and the searching to gather at your table where all are fed by your love.

**Congregation Sings:**

*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.*

*This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.*

*Come to the table of grace.*

One: Holy God, in the fullness of time you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, who welcomed sinners and saints alike, ate with the forgotten, touched the unclean, healed the suffering, and proclaimed the nearness of your kingdom.

**All: At every table where Jesus gathered, people found mercy instead of condemnation, hope instead of despair, and life instead of fear.**

One: On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus gathered with his disciples for a meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

**Congregation Sings:**

*Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.*

*This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.*

*Come to the table of peace.*

**One:** Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, that we may be strengthened for ministry in the world.

**All:** **Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in loving service to all creation. Where there is division, sow reconciliation. Where there is sorrow, bring comfort. Where there is hunger, move us to acts of justice and compassion. May this table become for us a place of healing, refuge for the weary, and a foretaste of your heavenly banquet where every tear is wiped away and all your children gather in joy.**

**Congregation Sings:**

*Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.*

*This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.*

*Come to the table of love.*

**One:** Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sharing the Meal**

*The elements will be passed in the pew,  
and we will receive the bread and wine.*

## Communion Hymn

*In this Place*

*Please join in singing Verses 1 and 2 as the element of bread is distributed and Verses 3 and 4 as the element of wine is distributed.*

*found on page 9*

One: The body of Christ given for us.

All: Amen

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us

All: Amen

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Samantha Kistler

All: **Through our sharing in the bread of life in our many Christian communions, Open our eyes and hands to the needs of all peoples. Let our hearts burn to share your gifts and help us go forth with one another with bread: Bread of hope, bread of life, bread of peace. 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: Sherri Gangewere

All: **Use these offerings we bring before you today to build relationships, to mend the broken, and to draw all families of the earth toward your heart. May our giving reflect our trust, and may our trust lead us to go where you send, step by step, stage by stage, into your future. Amen.**

# IN THIS PLACE

Trevor Thomson

## Verses



1. We are all hun-gry peo-ple, we need shel-ter and
2. All our lives are a Mys-t'ry; we see not where they
3. Though the world may tell us to look at our-
4. In the bread that is bro-ken is the Christ that re-



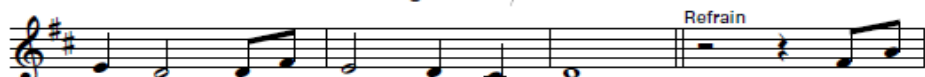
1. strength. We are one in our hurt-ing, we are
2. lead. We are asked now to trust you and we
3. selves, we reach out to an-oth-er where
4. stores. As we take, now re-ceive him, we find



1. one in our pain. In our suf-f'ring and sad-ness,
2. know we must be-lieve. As our feet be-come Christ's feet,
3. suf-fer-ing dwells. As our hands be-come Christ's hands,
4. love ev-er-more. As the bread be-comes Bod-y,



1. we are saved by the grace
  2. we go forth with the grace
  3. we are healed by the grace
  4. we are filled with the grace
- } of the pow-er and the



1-4. Spir-it that is here in this place. We are



gath-ered at ta-ble as one in the Lord. We are  
*(\*to - geth-er)*



gath-ered as peo-ple who are liv-ing the Word. Our



hearts and our spir-its are nur-tured by grace. It is



Je-sus who fills us. He is here in this place.

Text © 1996, Victoria Thomson. Music © 1996, Trevor Thomson.  
 Text and music published by Spirit & Song®, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

# We Serve

**\*Closing Hymn WR #71**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
Verses 1 and 2

**\*Benediction**

Samantha Kistler

**\*Postlude**

*Postlude on Lobe Den Herren*  
Arr. by Noel Rawesthorne

## **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 –May 31**

Onsite – 74 Online – 29

### **Flower Sponsorship**

In Memory of Albert D' Argenio  
By daughter, Karen Stoitsits and family  
*(placed on altar on May 30<sup>th</sup>)*

In Memory of My Loving Husband, Bill Antrim  
By Sharon Antrim

## **Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 7** **Lectionary Readings**

*Genesis 12:1-9 and Psalm 33:1-12*  
*Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15*  
*Romans 4:13-25 and Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Sherri Gangewere

Scripture Reader: Regi Mohr

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Corinna Purdon

Greeters and Ushers: Robin Brensinger, Bill Fink, Wayne Lichtenwalner,  
Linda Powell

## Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 14

### Lectionary Readings

*Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19*

*Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)*

### Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Melissa Szoke

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter: Sherri Gangewere

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Karen Stoitsits

Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

### 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, 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, Ray and 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](mailto: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.

## MUSIC MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP

A new opportunity has been added to our sponsorship form that allows members of the congregation to play a more direct and meaningful role in supporting our music ministry. Individuals and families now have the opportunity to sponsor either a choral or handbell piece to be presented during the 2026/2027 choral season. This offering offers a unique way to honor a loved one, celebrate a meaningful occasion, or simply contribute to the continued growth of our worship life through music.

While the music budget and music ministry restricted funds have helped develop and shape the program into what it is today, it is only through the congregation's continued support and appreciation of the program that we can continue to grow and enhance our weekly services. Your involvement ensures that we can bring in new, inspiring repertoire, expand our musical offerings, and maintain the level of excellence that has become a hallmark of our ministry. **Sponsoring a choral piece will be \$65.00,** which will help offset the cost of music as it continues to rise in price. Each sponsored piece becomes part of the fabric of our worship, enriching not only a single service but the spiritual life of our entire congregation.

We invite you to prayerfully consider taking part in this new initiative. Together, through our shared support, we can ensure that our music ministry continues to flourish—lifting hearts, deepening worship, and proclaiming the joy of the Gospel. Help our music ministry continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

## **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. Our next meeting is on **June 13 at 8:30am**. Rev. James Robinson 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.

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

For the month of June, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or email at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com).

## **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.

## **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.

## **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

We congratulate the following pastors who will celebrate the anniversaries of their ordinations in June:

Rev. John Hoff – 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Ordination – 6/10/73

Rev. Cliff Herring – 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination – 6/11/72

## **BASEBALL AT IRONPIGS**

We have reserved 80 seats in Section 105 of the grandstand at Coca Cola Park for the IronPigs vs. RailRiders baseball game on **Tuesday, August 11**, at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$14,00, which includes ticket to the game and \$2.00 ballpark credit. It's "Dollar Dog Night," where hot dogs are \$1.00 all night long. **Deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, June 21.** For reservations and payment, see Carol Raszler.

## **FLAG DAY BINGO**

We're still looking for game sponsors, Tricky Tray items and bottled water for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Bingo! See Tom Moyer.

**CHURCH CALENDAR  
FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7 - 14**

Sun 6/7	9:30 am	Worship
Tues 6/9	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
Wed 6/10	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Brownies
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Mission
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 6/11	5:30 pm	Bingo Setup
Fri 6/12	6:00 pm	Flag Day Bingo
Sat 6/13	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 am	Zumba
	1:00 pm	Pavilion rental
Sun 6/14	9:30 am	Worship
	4:00 pm	Pavilion rental
		<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

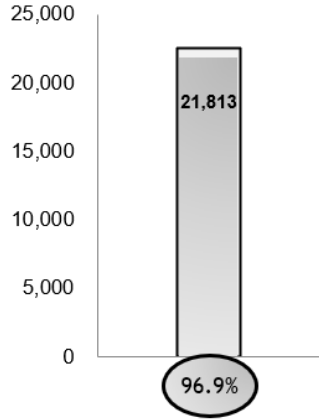
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	21,813.18
Overall Percent	96.9%

Last Week	
Start:	5/28/26
End:	6/3/26
Total:	6,831.50

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
MAY 2026	686.82

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



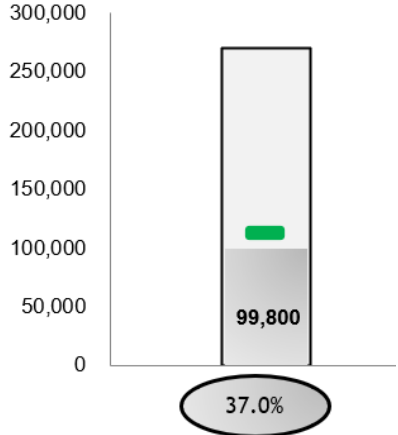
## YTD OFFERINGS

MAY 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	112,500.00
Overall Total	99,800.00
Overall Percent	37.0%

### Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



## OUR STAFF

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