

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



March 9, 2025

**1st Sunday in Lent
9:30 am**

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.

Children's Faith Formation begins in the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom and meet the leaders. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

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

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Lent Dinner & Devotionals, Wednesdays at 6:00pm in Fox Hall, Soup & Bread Sign Up
- Sunday Socials for March and April, volunteers needed
- March 10 – Dine & Donate, Texas Roadhouse, 3:00-10:00pm
- March 16 – Phantoms Game, 3:05pm

*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

Just As I Am

Arr. by Jason Krug

Bells of St. Johns

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: We have started down a road that will take us to the cross.

All: It is a journey we take together, and a journey each makes alone.

One: We are invited to notice things on the way –

All: To notice the sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.

One: We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:

All Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow and love.

One: On this walk we rest and sing and pray and listen.

**All: In our worship, we rest and sing and pray and listen.
Let us worship God.**

*Opening Hymn

The Glory of These Forty Days

Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on page 3 of the bulletin

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: Out of the depths we cry to God in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. So let us pray with and for each other, first in silence.

Time for Silent Prayer

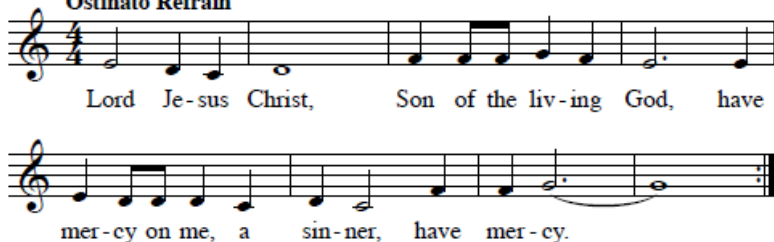
Sung Response

LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Jesus Prayer

Carol Browning

Ostinato Refrain



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The Glory of These Forty Days

1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days
 2. A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw
 3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight,
 4. Then grant, O God, that we may, too,

We cel - e - brate with songs of praise;
 The lov - ing God who gave the law;
 De - liv - ered from the li - ons' might;
 Re - turn in fast and prayer to You.

For Christ, through whom all things were made,
 And to E - li - jah, fast - ing, came
 And John, the Bride - groom's friend, be - came
 Our spir - its strength - en with Your grace,

Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 And give us joy to see Your face.

Text: *Clarum decus jejunit*; Gregory the Great, c.540–604; tr. by Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947
 Tune: HAMBURG, LM; Gregorian Chant; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

All: Holy God, hear our prayer: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness; for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us; for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us; we pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, the courage to stand for justice, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

One: As Lent begins, know that God understands how we struggle to stay open and compassionate. The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies, but on God's gift of grace and love which transforms our hearts and minds.

All: That gift is given to us again, here and now. May we know through the redeeming love of the cross, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Hymn

Om Eagles Wings

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 5 of the bulletin

***Scripture Reading**

Romans 10:8b-13

Reader: Sherri Gangewere

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

continued on page 6 of the bulletin

On Eagle's Wings

Verse 1

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -
bide in his shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My
ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of his hand. *Last time to coda* *To verses*

Verse 2

snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, and
fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings your
ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield. **D.S.**

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk!
Finding a Faith that Makes Us Better Humans
by John Pavlovitz
"You Had One Job"

Song of Praise

Lamb of God
Twila Paris/Arr. By L. Larson

*Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.*

*Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died,
the humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God.*

*O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in his precious blood. My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

*I was so lost I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God.*

*O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in his precious blood, till I am just a lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in his precious blood, till I am just a lamb of God.*

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. 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**

A Lenten Doxology

*Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003*

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

**And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

**All: Merciful God, during this sacred Lenten journey, restore
the joy of your salvation within us through hearts close to
yours. May these offerings bring hope and healing to
others, just as you continually renew us with your grace.
In the name of the Christ of Love, we pray. Amen.**

We Serve

*Sending Hymn

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
Verses 1 and 2

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley



1. Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley;
2. We must walk this lone - some val - ley;
3. You must go and stand your tri - al;



He had to walk it by him - self.
We have to walk it by our - selves.
You have to stand it by your - self.



Oh, no - bod - y else could walk it for him;
Oh, no - bod - y else can walk it for us;
Oh, no - bod - y else can stand it for you;



He had to walk it by him - self.
We have to walk it by our - selves.
You have to stand it by your - self.

Text: American folk hymn

Tune: LONESOME VALLEY, 8 8 10 8; American folk hymn; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
Verse 3

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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Lectionary Readings for the First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13 and Luke 4:1-13

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30am Adult Faith Formation

- Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation

- with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

Attendance – March 2

Onsite – 76 Online – 61

Ash Wednesday

Onsite - 44 Online - 19

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 9th, 2025 (First Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Janet Boyd

Scripture Reader: Sherri Gangewere

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Nicholas Santee

Greeters: Kim Hillegass/Charlotte Kerrigan

Ushers: Tom and Emilie Moyer

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Social Hour: Colleen Kulhamer

March 16, 2025 (Second Sunday in Lent)

Liturgist: Sharon Antrim

Scripture Reader: Sharon

Czekner

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Acolyte: Lucas Williams

Greeters: Pam Repetz and Carole O'Connell

Ushers: Kim Hillegass and Wayne Lichenwalner

Altar Guild: Linda Apple

Social Hour: Open

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, Kate Asbill, Margaret and Richard Baatz, Alex Bach, Christina Bach, Clarence and Dorothea Biehn, Nancy Bowman, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Bob Czekner, Rob Czekner, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda

Devaney, Janet Ebert, Gus Geissinger, Gary George, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Gail Hanzl, Donna Held, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Emma Kuczek Repp, Jean Litzenberger, Bob Lopez, Judy Luckenbill, Robert Menges, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Paul Raszler, Bobby Sherman, Madeline Slivka, Leona Snyder, George Williams, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

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.

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.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2025

This coupon book, good for all of 2025, contains discount offers for restaurants, hotels, car rentals, entertainment venues, amusement parks, clothing, food, and much more. Cost is \$25 per book. A sample copy is on display in the lounge area. See Carol Raszler to make your purchase. **Deadline to purchase is Sunday, March 9.**

DINE & DONATE AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE

We have a Dine & Donate event at the **Texas Roadhouse located at 6268 Hamilton Blvd. in Trexlertown on Monday, March 10, between the hours of 3pm to 10pm** – dine-in or to-go. Menu includes large selection of appetizers, dinners, salads, burgers, desserts, and beverages. Restaurant will donate 10% of your food purchase back to St. John's. **A flyer is needed** and can be found on the church's website, newsletter, and on the table in the lounge area.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES APPEAL

We will continue to accept monetary contributions for the California wildfires from now until the end of March. The devastation has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and

landscapes forever changed. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it's a long road ahead. Your gift will help provide resources including emotional and spiritual care to families in need. It will support long-term recovery efforts, ensuring communities can rebuild stronger and more resilient. General Disaster Relief Fund envelopes can be found on the table in the lounge area. Donations can be mailed into the church office, put in the offering plate, made online or by text. Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton with "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo section.

WANTED!

A sewer is needed to join our Crafters group, "Keeping you in Stitches." We are looking for someone willing to help sew our table runners, bowl cozies, baby bibs, etc. Fabric and directions will be provided along with help if needed. Please contact Crol Raszler at 610-393-7572 or crazler@aol.com if you are interested.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

If inclement weather requires cancellation of Sunday services, notices will be on Channel 69 news or www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter

EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Our Crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" will have Easter and Spring items for sale on **Sundays, March 16 and March 23**. Choose from bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, decorations, household and kitchen items, 12-bean soup mix, baby items, and much more. Come to the lounge area before or after worship to make your purchases. See Carol Raszler.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

"BE THE LIGHT"

For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been helping bring God's hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS's mission is to bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster; to provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons; to support domestic and international development; to fight poverty and its consequences; and to combat injustice in its many forms. Your contribution will help meet urgent as well as long-term needs.

Special offering envelopes for OGHS will be received on Sunday, March 30, as well as during the entire month of March.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, we are collecting pancake mix, jelly, and coffee. 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 7:30pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, please contact Gary Black at (484) 274-2405 or gary.t.black@outlook.com.

REMINDER: PASTIE SALE PICKUP

If you placed an order for pasties, pickup is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Sunday, March 30, following worship in Fox Hall. See Carol Raszler.

BASEBALL IS COMING!

Time to make your reservations for St John's night at the IronPigs Party Porch. Sunday, May 25, 6:35 pm. The price of \$40 includes admission to the porch, buffet from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and unlimited soft drinks and bottled water throughout the evening. It is Memorial Day eve, so Fireworks will follow the game. Please see Tom Moyer with your paid reservation.

QUINN FAMILY FIRE SUPPORT

Our former visitation pastor, Rev. Dave Quinn, recently shared that his son and family lost their home and possessions to the California wildfires. We have a special designation offering plate that will be next to our regular center aisle offering plate, with envelopes available for any who would like to contribute to this direct gift of love to the Quinn family. Please note any gifts for "Quinn Family Fire" on your check or envelope. Thank you for your heartfelt support and generosity.

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 ironton1@verizon.net

CHURCH CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9 – MARCH 16

Sun 3/9	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		Newsletter Deadline
Mon 3/10	3-10 pm	Texas Roadhouse Dine and Donate
Tues 3/11	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 3/12	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Soup and Study
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/13	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 3/15	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/16	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
		Children's Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
	3:05 pm	Phantoms Game