

# 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!***

**March 10, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9:30am**

# We Worship

**Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!**

*We are a place where love can grow!*

*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** is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

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

**Music to Prepare our Hearts**      *Father, Forgive—Lee Dengler*

*Patrick Sandt, Director of Music*

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**      Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Lenten Soup & Bread Hosts Needed – see red display stand
- BINGO – March 15
- SaveAround Coupon books for sale – see Kathy Haggarty
- Easter Egg Preparation and Hunt – **18 PEOPLE NEEDED**  
March 23, 12-3pm
- VBS 2024 ~ July 15-19, 5:30-8:00pm
- ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING – TODAY!

**\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

One: In our richness, we have believed that we are the ones who have all the answers to life's problems.

**All: But when those who have little offer all they have; we are put to shame.**

One: In our power, we believe that might is right.

**All: But when those who are powerless offer love and mercy; we are put to shame.**

One: Joy fills our lives, when we center our lives on Jesus Christ.

**All: Hope fills our hearts when we focus on our Savior.**

One: Comfort fills our spirits, when we believe in the Lord.

**All: Peace fills our souls when we seek to do God's Work. May we come and celebrate our Lord. Amen**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

Verses 1 and 3

*found on page 3 of the bulletin*

**\*Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

**All: Lord, as we gather here, on this day of sharing, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

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. 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;

**All: We pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. We pray this in your most Holy name. Amen.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

LENT

# 257 What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down; when I was sink - ing  
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
down be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

WORDS: Appalachian folk hymn  
MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

WONDROUS LOVE  
12.9.12.12.9.

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

One: Let God’s love and mercy wash over you as the spring rains wash over the earth, bringing promise of new life and hope. Be at peace.

All: **Jesus has come into the world not to condemn it, but to set us free by love. May we know the grace of God that surrounds us and keeps us in love now and forever. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

Rev. Davis

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

**Hymn**

*To Mock Your Reign*

Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 4 of the bulletin.*

**\*Scripture Reading**

*Luke 23: 13-25*

Scripture Reader: Joy Gravely

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steve Davis

**God Did this For You!**

God’s Gift in the Path

I Will Not Abandon You.

**Anthem**

*Without His Cross*

Jospeh Martin

## To Mock Your Reign

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1 To mock your reign, O dear-est Lord, they made a crown of thorns;  
 2 In mock ac - claim, O gra-cious Lord, they snatched a pur - ple cloak;  
 3 A scep-tered reed, O pa-tient Lord, they thrust in - to your hand,



set you with taunts a - long that road from which no one re - turns.  
 your pas - sion turned, for all they cared, in - to a sol - dier's joke.  
 and act - ed out their grim cha - rade to its ap - point-ed end.



They could not know, as we do now, how glo - rious is that crown;  
 They could not know, as we do now, that though we mer - it blame,  
 They could not know, as we do now, though em - pires rise and fall,



that thorns would flower up - on your brow, your sor - rows heal our own.  
 you will your robe of mer - cy throw a - round our na - ked shame.  
 your king - dom shall not cease to grow till love em - brac - es all.



WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000); para. Matthew 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20, John 19:1-5  
 MUSIC: English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

KINGSFOLD  
 C.M.D.

Words © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

# We Love

**Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People**

Rev. Davis

## **THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

*Author Unknown*

**Loving God, in whom is heaven,  
may Your name be honored everywhere.  
May Your kingdom come.  
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,  
in us, by us and through us.  
Give us the bread we need for each day.  
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.  
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.  
For You reign in the power that comes from love  
which is Your glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Sung Response**

*Merciful God*

$\text{♩} = 88$

Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, Gath - er the long - ing the lost and un-sure

5

Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, name us and claim us as yours!

## **Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God**

**Scan, Support & Sustain**  
**BECOME AN AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR!**

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 whom imparts  
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Tom Moyer

**All: Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love and no to the powers of oppression has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.**

## We Serve

**\*Closing Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 8 of the bulletin*

**\*The Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Toccatina in A Minor*

Gerald Peterson

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*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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## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness  
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ures  
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat-ter Like a crowd of



of the sea; There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice  
of our mind, And the heart of the E-ter-nal  
fright-ened sheep? Fool-ish hearts, why will you wan-der



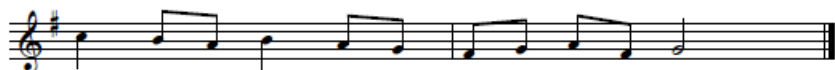
Which is more than lib-er-ty. There is plen-ti-ty  
Is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were  
From a love so true and deep? There is wel-come



ful re-demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;  
but more sim-ple We should take him at his word,  
for the sin-ner And more grac-es for the good;



There is joy for all the mem-bers  
And our lives would be thanks-giv-ing  
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior,



In the sor-rows of the Head.  
For the good-ness of our Lord.  
There is heal-ing in his blood.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.  
Tune: IN BABILONE, S 787 D; Oude en Nieuwe Hollandsche Boerenliden, c.1710

## **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 3**

Onsite – 93    Online - 23

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **March 10**

Liturgist – Tom Moyer

Scripture Reader – Joy Gravely

Ushers – Bruce and Bobbi Pope

Worship Tech – Elijah Fox

Social Hour Hosts – Amy Feidler, Cindy Reck, Karen Stoitsits

### **March 17**

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman

Scripture Reader – Barb Menges

Ushers – Mike Borgman

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Charlotte Kerrigan

Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

Social Hour Hosts – Tara Ferioli, Staci Pagan

## **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, Clarence Biehn, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio and Kaden Rossanese.

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**. If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

## ST. JOHN'S SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for 2024 is now available for anyone wishing to sponsor the following: Altar flowers are \$25.00 a vase, Bulletins are \$20, Wheat Basket, where the donation will go to the Food Pantry, is \$15, and the monthly newsletter is \$100.00. Please contact the church office for additional information or to sign up!

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING "SHARE THE LIGHT"

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), now in its 75<sup>th</sup> year, is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. OGHS programs also include health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing, and women's empowerment. Your contribution will be received in worship on **Sunday, March 10, and during the entire month of March**. Please place your offering in the collection plate, mail to the church, or give on-line or by text.

## BINGO!

St. John's first Gift Card Bingo of 2024 will be held on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are now available, see Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer. You can help make this event successful by donating:

Hot Dogs (Beef)

Hot dog and Hamburger rolls

A carton of Sprite (Regular and/or Diet)

A crockpot of Perogie Casserole (Any recipe)

Items for "Tricky Tray" table. These can be gift cards or baskets or anything worth around \$20 - \$30.

Sponsor a game. Each game costs \$50.

Your help and assistance on Bingo night.

Please contact Tom Moyer if you are able to donate any of these items. Thanks for your help. Don't forget to get your tickets early!

## EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Hop to it—our Crafters have Easter items for sale. Choose from bunnies, chicks, table runners, T-towels, decorations, and baskets. **Please look for our table in the lounge area on Sundays, March 10 and March 17, before and after the worship service.** We will also have available, among other things: 12-bean soup mix, tank covers and look for our newest items— heat resistant pot handle mitts and extra-large bowl cozies. You'll also find a large selection of baby items and doll sweaters. Contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572.

## DISASTER RELIEF – UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, a war that has become the largest attack on a European country since World War II and now in its third year. Thousands of lives lost; homes, schools, hospitals bombed and destroyed—there's no end in sight. If you would like to continue our support of Ukraine through UCC National, World Central Kitchen, and Project HOPE, you will find special Disaster Relief Fund offering envelopes on the table in the lounge or donations can be made online or by text giving. Be sure to indicate Ukraine in the memo section.

## WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For March, we are collecting **mac and cheese, canned corn, pancake mix and syrup.** For Easter, we are collecting **canned fruits, canned vegetables, and canned sweet potatoes for our Easter meal distribution.** Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text. For more information, contact Gary Black at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) (484) 274-2405.

## AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S

Do you realize that by purchasing **Giant and Weis gift cards** and by **saving Redner's register tapes**, you are contributing money to St. John's? For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5% back. For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing  
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Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship. The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping.

### **PASTIE SALE**

It's time for our spring Pastie Sale. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these frozen pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following: beef, beef (no onion), chicken, sausage, ham, veggie melt, spinach melt, and apple, cherry, and blueberry turnovers. Try our newest selections: Philly cheese steak, cheeseburger, chicken cordon bleu, Mexican, and pizza pasties. Prices range from \$7.25 to \$8.25 for the meat pasties & melts and \$4.25 for the fruit turnovers. Orders forms can be found on the table in the lounge area and on the church's website. **Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.** You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in

the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, April 25, or Sunday, April 28. **Deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 7.** If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com).

### **OCEAN CITY TRIP**

Ocean City, New Jersey bus trip - We will try again to go to Ocean City, NJ this year. The date is Saturday, June 22nd. The cost is \$45.00 per person. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM and leave Ocean City at 7 PM. There will be a designated time during the day to bring back your items to the bus. The deadline is May 22nd to sign up. Please see Brian Strauss.

### **PHILLIES GAME**

Do you have Phillies fever?? The Phillies Phundraising program helps out non-profitable organizations by giving back if you buy Phillies tickets. There are 25 tickets available to purchase for the Phillies game vs the Cleveland Guardians on Friday, July 26th at 6:40 PM. It is first come, first serve. The tickets cost \$55 each and the seats are in

section 110 which is right along the first base side. It is also Trea Turner Bobblehead night! For each ticket sold St Johns receives a rebate for \$4. If all tickets sell, we get a rebate check back for \$100.00. The deadline is June 2nd to purchase tickets. **This does not include transportation. This is for tickets only.** Please see Brian Strauss.

### **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, March 26.**

### **BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED NOW**

We need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following:

Books, Sports, Camping, Picnic, Crafts, Puzzles, Linens, Baby Items, Baking, Beverages, Snacks, Car Care, Movie Passes, Park Passes, Beauty/ Spa Items, Children's Games/Toys, Restaurant Gift Cards, Pet Supplies, Gardening/Plants

Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. **We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible.** If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

**Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10am-2pm  
Sunday, May 5, 8am-9:30am  
and 10:30am-11:30am**

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days. Attention Bakers: a pie or cake (or two) would be a great donation – and much appreciated!

## IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH

St. John's annual night at the IronPigs Party Porch will be on Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day eve) at 6:35. Tickets sell for \$39, the same as last season. Price includes baseball game, buffet, soft drinks, bottled water, and fireworks. Contact Tom Moyer for reservations ASAP.



### Lenten Prayer Gatherings

The 4 PA UCC Conference Ministers and UCC Staff Members will lead weekly prayer gatherings during Lent on **Wednesdays from 12:00-12:30pm. The first prayer time is Wednesday, February 21** and will follow each Wednesday until March 20th.



The Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ cordially invite you to participate in this virtual Lenten opportunity! Meeting each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, this Bible Study explores the foundations of our identity as Christians and members of the UCC as we explore what the future may hold! Each week is unique so if you cannot attend every date you can still participate in as many as you are able. **If you have any questions, or you would like to participate in this study, please email [patty@pnec.org](mailto:patty@pnec.org) to receive the link.** Thank you!

**March 13:** The Priesthood of All Believers  
**March 20:** Communion

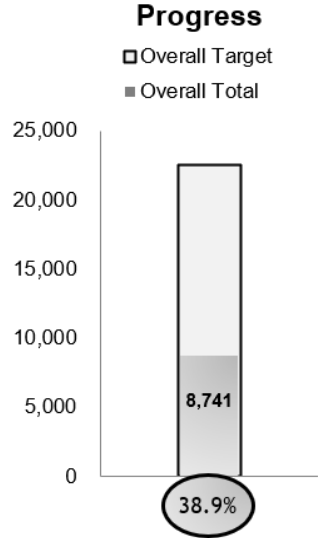
**GOOD FRIDAY ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**Community Worship at St. John's UCC, Mickley**  
**11:00am – 12:00pm ~ Come and Go**  
**12:00 – 1:00pm Worship Service**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MARCH 2024

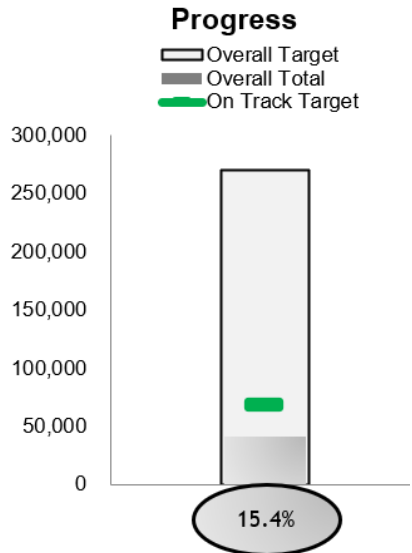
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	8,741.30
Overall Percent	38.9%
Last Week	
Start:	3/3/24
End:	3/9/24
Total:	6,610.30
Amt needed to reach Target	
MARCH 2024	13,758.70



### YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	41,501.94
Overall Percent	15.4%



**Furnace loan balance = \$3,538**



## Church Calendar for the Week of March 10 – March 17

Sun 3/10	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour/Craft Sale
	11:00 am	Confirmation <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
Mon 3/11	6:00 pm	“Fun” Raising
Tues 3/12	10:30 am	Visitation Committee
	1:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Consistory
Wed 3/13	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup and Devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/14	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 3/15	6:00 pm	St. Pat’s Bingo
Sat 3/16	9:00 am	Zumba
Sun 3/17	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour/Craft Sale
	11:00 am	Confirmation

## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis <a href="mailto:srpastor@sjucf.org">srpastor@sjucf.org</a>
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt <a href="mailto:music@sjucf.org">music@sjucf.org</a>
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor <a href="mailto:officesecretary@sjucf.org">officesecretary@sjucf.org</a>
Treasurer	Sue Weldner <a href="mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com">sbweldner@gmail.com</a>
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst (FS) <a href="mailto:financialsecretary@sjucf.org">financialsecretary@sjucf.org</a> (CC) <a href="mailto:custodians@sjucf.org">custodians@sjucf.org</a>
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Custodian	Christina Bach <a href="mailto:Ironton1@verizon.net">Ironton1@verizon.net</a>