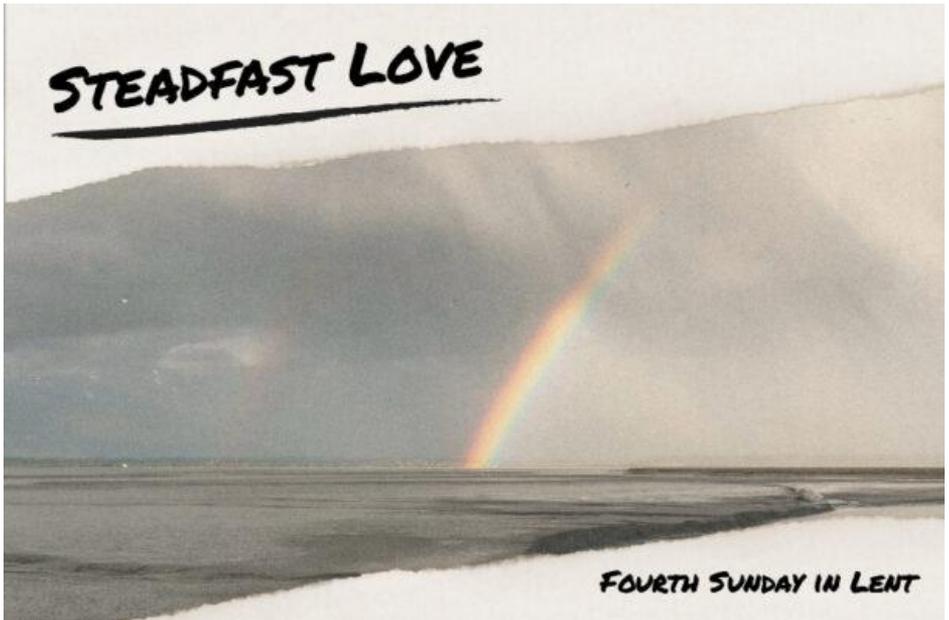


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
9:30am

We Worship, We Love, We Serve
- No Matter What!

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*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 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. Parents are asked to accompany their child if they are at the kids' table in the back.*

On Communion Sundays the children remain in the worship service.

Hymnal Abbreviations

WR—Worship and Rejoice **NC**—New Century Hymnal

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Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

We are proud to say... "You are... **Welcome Here!**"

Please "check in" on Facebook and "Like" and "Subscribe" to the St. John's YouTube channel and help us share hope in our area.

- Wednesday Evenings in Lent – 6pm Soup & Bread meals signups, and devotional series, Mary's Way of the Cross
- Fun-Raising Opportunities – Basket Social in May!
- Egg Hunt Preparations – Egg Cartons and Candy
- Easter Flower Sponsorship – **due today!**

***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

Lament
R Kevin Boesiger

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Return to the Lord your God,

All: For God is gracious.

One: Confess to the Lord your God,

All: For God is merciful.

One: Repent to the Lord your God,

All: For God is slow to anger.

One: Praise the Lord your God,

All: For God abounds in steadfast love.

One: Worship the Lord your God.

All: Together, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn: NC # 23

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy
Verses 1 and 2

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Rev. 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, inviting us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and receive forgiveness. So let us pray with one another, first in silence.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

All: Beloved God, with the eagerness of a child, you wait for our coming; with the urgency of a mother, you long for our return; with the anxious heart of a father, your arms ache to hold us. The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away, that's us, not you.

Forgive us and heal us of everything in us that recoils from our common humanity. You have given us such worth; help us to take all creation at your valuation and to know ourselves, and all your children, precious and loved.

Sung Response

Eleison, Have Mercy
Translation: Lord Have Mercy

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

Choir Only

$\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Ky-rie e - le - i - son Ky-rie e - le - i - son Ky-rie e -
10 - le - i - son Havemer - cy, I pray ALL Ky-rie e - le - i - son
15 Ky-rie e - le - i - son Ky-rie e - le - i - son Have mer - cy, have
20 mer - cy, I pray.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

One: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love.

All: **May we know that we are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve in the name of Christ, our Crucified Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Rev. Davis & Samantha Kistler

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

Hymn:

The Cross of Jesus
All Verses

found on page 4

The Cross of Jesus



1. Come, O God, re - new your peo - ple, We who long to
 2. Deep with - in cre - ate a new heart; Melt a - way the
 3. In the dark - ness that sur - rounds us We have lost you
 4. Call us forth to walk in jus - tice. Res - cue us from



see your face. Strength - en hearts that have grown fee - ble;
 win - ter chill. Help us now to make a new start,
 from our sight. E - ven though your love has found us,
 sin and grave. Through the pow - er of your Spir - it,



Fill our lives with truth and grace. On - ly you can
 Help us now to know your will. Washed in wa - ters
 We em - brace the powers of night. Scat - ter now our
 Breathe in us the breath that saves. Strength - en us in



win our free - dom; On - ly you can bring us
 of for - giv - ness, Cleansed in wa - ters of new
 deep - est dark - ness. Guide our hearts in - to the
 our com - mun - ion, One in Word and cup and



peace. On - ly in the cross of Je - sus
 birth, Lead us to the cross of Je - sus,
 light. Join us to the cross of Je - sus.
 bread. Here with - in the cross of Je - sus,



Will the cap - tives find re - lease.
 Bring - ing life to all the earth.
 Help us set our liv - ing right.
 All who hun - ger will be fed.

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Steadfast Love

Song of Praise: WR # 422

Amazing Grace
Verses 1, 2, and 5

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People
(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Rev. 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**

Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity and
faithfulness in supporting the
ministry of St. John's UCC!

***Doxology**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

**All: Gracious God, we bring these gifts as a sign of our
return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your
embrace and live in the light of your grace. May our
offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you.
Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your
steadfast love with the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

We Serve

***Sending Hymn: WR # 348**

Softly and Tenderly
Verses 1 and 2

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Lenten Playlist

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

(Worship will conclude at the end of the video presentation.)

Attendance – March 8

Onsite 93 Online 43

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:15am Friendship Class

9:30am Worship/Faith Formation: Holy Moly

10:30am Sunday Social

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Rev. Janet Boyd

Scripture Reader: Regi Mohr

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Charlotte Kerrigan

Greeter: Pam Repetz and Jackie Maxon

Ushers: Carole O'Connell and Kim Hillegass

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22

Lectionary Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11 and John 11:1-45

Serving in Worship Leadership

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

Scripture Reader: Corinna Purdon

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

Greeter and Altar Guild: Kim Hillegass

Ushers: Karen Stoitsits and Tom Moyer

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, Christina Bach, Sherry Castello (Bill's mom), Rob Czekner, Marion DeMilio, Janet and Jim Ebert, Sally Gibson, Sandy Glass and Tracey Glass, Mike Gravely, Donna Held, Rev. John Hoff and Charlee Hoff, Ray and JoAnn Hower, Geraldine Keim, Mary Jane Kistler, Dawn Luckenbill, Jean McGonigle, Karen Moyer, Molly Nicholas, Eleanor and Joe O'Donnell, Elaine Parsons, Joey Raszler, Rebecca Schneck, Bert Smith, Leona Snyder, Lori Stocker, Barry Stephens and Rev. Becca Stephens, Martha Strauss, 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.

FINAL DAY FOR EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Your help is needed in enhancing the beauty of St. John's this Easter by decorating the sanctuary in Easter flowers. To order, please complete an order form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office with payment

Flowers available for \$12.00

White, Orange, and Yellow Lilies

Tulips and Easter Mums

\$50.00 Chancel Altar Spring Arrangements

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.

APPLEBEES BURGERS FOR A CAUSE

Now available! Applebee's burger gift cards are good for any burgers on their menu (Some cost over \$17.00), for the price of \$10 per card. The certificates never expire and are good at Applebee's in our area. They make great stocking stuffers! See Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer to purchase these certificates.

PEEPS MEETING

The Lady PEEPS (Women's Group) will meet on **Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Rev. Janet Boyd will share with us her faith journey. Please contact Regi Mohr at (610) 390-0872 to learn more about PEEPS.

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.

EASTER & SPRING CRAFT SALE

Our crafters group "Keeping You in Stitches" has been hard at work to offer you a variety of items for the Easter and Spring season. From bowl cozies, T-towels, and table runners to baby and household items, there's so much to choose from. We also have a new supply of 12-bean soup mix. Come to the lounge area before or after worship today!

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, we are collecting items for the Easter meal—canned corn, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, 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.

LEHIGH VALLEY SAVEAROUND BOOKS 2026

This coupon book, good for all of 2026, 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.

IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH, FOOD, FUN, AND FIREWORKS, PLUS A BASEBALL GAME

Spring training has begun, so it is time to "think spring." St. John's annual outing for the IronPigs party porch will again be on Memorial Day eve, Sunday, May 24, 2026. Tickets cost \$40 for great seats in the party porch, buffet supper, and unlimited soft drinks and water. Fireworks will follow the game.

Please see Tom Moyer to make your reservation. This trip is organized by St. John's "Fun-raising" committee.

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

There are only 2 seats remaining for our bus trip to Lancaster for the Sight & Sound production of "Joshua." Please see Tom Moyer for your reservation. Cost of the trip (including buffet lunch at Yoder's restaurant) is \$150.00. **For those who have paid the \$75 deposit, your remaining balance of \$75 can be paid at any time, since the trip is now definite. Please give payments to Tom Moyer, or send to the Church office.**

WE NEED FILLED BASKETS FOR OUR BASKET SOCIAL

It's time to start thinking and getting items together to fill baskets for our Basket Social on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3. If you do not wish to make a basket, monetary donations are being accepted, and we will put a basket together for you. We are also looking for gift card donations to restaurants and businesses. If you need a basket, many can be found in Room 303 for you to use. If you have any questions, see Amy Feidler or Carol Raszler.

EASTER BASKETS FOR YOUTH

A total of 10 baskets were given out to members of the congregation to be filled with goodies such as candies, fidgets, knickknacks, or whatever else is going to make it an "eggstravagant" Easter basket! The baskets will then be delivered by **Pinebrook Family Answers' High Fidelity Wraparound Process** to youth in the Lehigh Valley between the ages of 8-18 years old who are in low-income families and have a mental health diagnosis. **Baskets are due back in the church office no later than Sunday, March 29.** Contact Emma Rarich at (484) 714-6757 or email at erarich@pbfalv.org if you have any questions or need further information

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. For over 75 years, the OGHS offering has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. It provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners. We will be receiving contributions for OGHS on March 15 and continue for the rest of the month.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

MARCH 2026

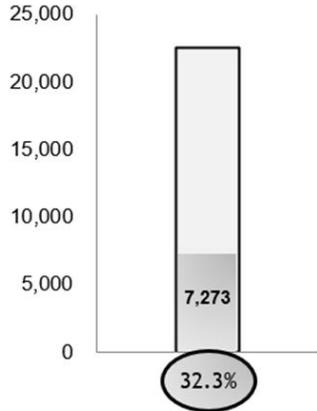
Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	7,272.96
Overall Percent	32.3%

Last Week	
Start:	3/8/26
End:	3/14/26
Total:	2,076.00

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
MARCH 2026	15,227.04

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



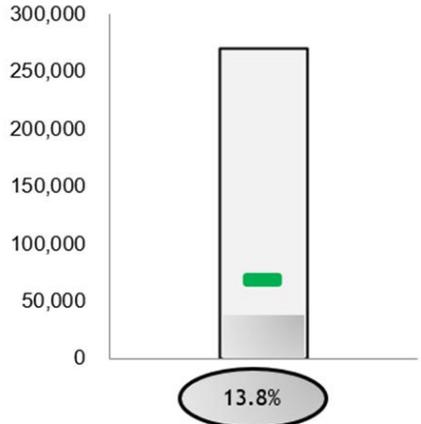
YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	37,352.15
Overall Percent	13.8%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15 – MARCH 22**

Sun 3/15	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	3:00 pm	Phantoms game, PPL Center Newsletter Deadline Easter Flower Deadline
Mon 3/16	6:00 pm	Fun Raising Committee
Tues 3/17	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	7:00 pm	PEEPS
Wed 3/18	9:00 am	Verso Chat Lectionary Study
	12 noon	Painting Group
	6:00 pm	Dinner and Devotions
	6:00 pm	Painting Group
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/19	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 3/20	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 3/21	9:30 am	Zumba
Sun 3/22	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour