

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 17, 2024
5th Sunday in 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 for Worship *Jesus Paid it All*

Arr. by Marianne Foreman

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 – see red display stand
- New Members Classes – March 18 (12pm and 7pm) and March 24 (11am) and March 25 (7pm), Received April 7 in worship.
- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 23, 12-3pm
6 volunteers still needed!
- Announcements Change

*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: Nancy Bowman

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

One: Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel as you walk down the path?

All: Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.

One: Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand.

All: We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.

One: This is the Lenten journey — to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

All: Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.

One: Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

All: Come, let us worship! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 3 of the bulletin

*Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: Lord, we know Easter is coming and while we anxiously wait to celebrate your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. There is nothing perfect about us, yet you beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, and selfishness.

All: You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on you and you alone for our redemption and salvation. Amen.

O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate



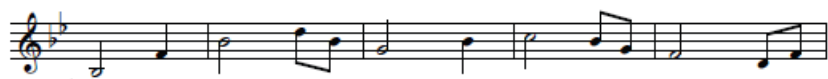
1. O Christ, your heart com - pas - sion - ate, Bore
 2. As once you wel - comed those cast down And
 3. O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us That
 4. O Love that made the dis - tant stars Yet



ev - 'ry hu - man pain. Its beat - ing was the
 healed the sick, the blind, So may all bruised and
 beat in time with yours, That, joined by faith with
 marks the spar-row's fall, Whose arms, stretched wide up -



pulse of God; Its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 bro - ken lives Through us your help still find.
 your great heart, Be - come Love's o - pen doors.
 on a cross, Em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ, Com -
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep That
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; Our
 Come, make your Church a ser - vant Church That



bined in per - fect rhyme To write God's love in
 none may weep a - lone, And help us bear an -
 hearts, our hands, we yield That through our life and
 walks your ser - vant ways, Whose deeds of love rise



hu - man deeds, E - ter - ni - ty in time.
 oth - er's pain As though it were our own.
 min - is - try Your love may be re - vealed.
 up to you, A sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Staempfle, Jr., 1923-2007, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: RESIGNATION, CMD; Funk's *Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back.

All: **Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

One: Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring.

All: **We rejoice in the name of Jesus Christ, who forgives and heals us. Amen.**

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

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

Scripture ReadingLuke 23: 39-43*

Scripture Reader: Barbara Menges

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

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

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

God Did This for You!

I Will Let You Choose ~ God's Promise in the Two Crosses

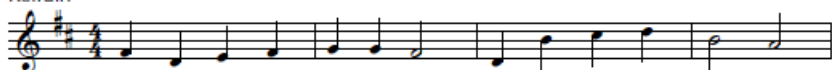
Hymn*Healer of Our Every Ill*

Verses 1 and 4

found on page 5 of the bulletin

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

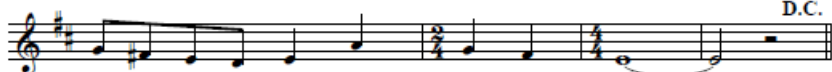
Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing,
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



Grace us with your peace and glad - ness,
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er,
Teach us all your way of heal - ing,



Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.
Give us all your vi - sion: God of love.
Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.
Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

We Love

The Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of People

Rev. Davis

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
May Your kingdom come,
May Your will be done on earth, As in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And do not let us be tempted, But free us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and glory,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Sung Response

Merciful God

Tony Alonso

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The lyrics are: Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, Gath - er the long - ing the lost and un-sure. The second staff begins with a measure rest (5) and continues with: Gath - er your peo-ple mer - ci - ful God, name us and claim us as yours!

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Nancy Bowman

**All: Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of
service that gives without counting cost, and a life
overflowing with grace poured out from the One who gave
everything, that we might show the power of love to a
broken world and share the truth from a living Word. This
we pray in your Holy name, Amen.**

We Serve

*Closing Hymn

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4

found on page 8 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

*Postlude

Postlude on Beginnings by Noel Rawesthrone

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

355 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin-nings, time to re - mem - ber
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might-y Spir - it,
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what
 *4 In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble to taste and share what

and move on, time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, and griev - ing,
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin-nings;
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin-nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926-)BEGINNINGS
9.8.9.8.Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

*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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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 10

Onsite – 80 Online - 16

Serving in Worship Leadership

March 17

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman Scripture Reader – Barbara Menges

Ushers – Charlotte Kerrigan, Mike Borgman

Worship Tech – Bill Castello Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

Social Hour Hosts – Tara Ferioli, Staci Pagan

March 24

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner Scripture Reader – Bobbi Pope

Ushers – Kathy Bright, Carol Flores Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Acolyte – Sophia Pagan

Social Hour Hosts – Nancy Bowman, Carol Raszler

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 75th 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 **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.

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**.

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 today, 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 (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

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.

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.

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!

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 your items back to the bus. The deadline is May 22nd to sign up. Please see Brian Strauss.

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 pattyr@pnec.org to receive the link.** Thank you!

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	11,451.30
Overall Percent	50.9%

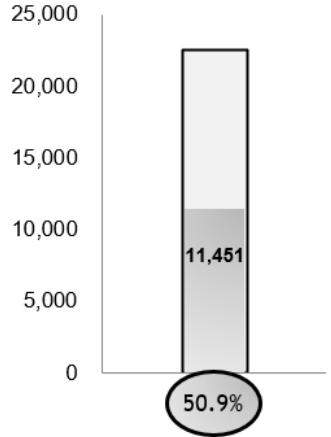
Last Week	
Start:	3/10/24
End:	3/16/24
Total:	2,710.00

<i>Amt needed to reach Target</i>	
MARCH 2024	11,048.70

Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total



YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2024

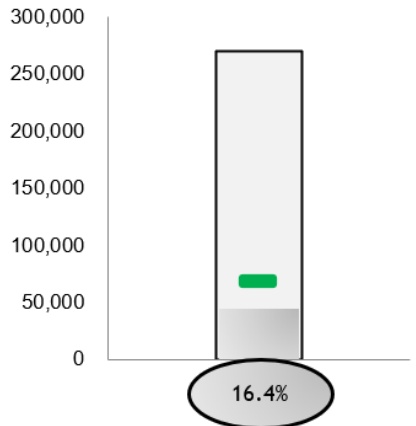
Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	44,211.94
Overall Percent	16.4%

Progress

□ Overall Target

■ Overall Total

■ On Track Target



Furnace loan balance = \$1,528

Church Calendar for the Week of March 17 through March 24

Sun 3/17	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Mon 3/18	noon	New Member class
	7:00 pm	New Member class
Tues 3/19	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Community of Practice
	6:30 pm	PEEPS
Wed 3/20	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:00 pm	Soup and Devotions
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 3/21	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 3/22		Confirmation visit to synagogue
Sat 3/23	9:30 am	Zumba
	Noon	Egg hunt
Sun 3/3	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Photo Directory photos taken New Members class

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjucf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst (FS) financialsecretary@sjucf.org (CC) custodians@sjucf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello (W-MT) stars@sjucf.org (CNE) newsletter@sjucf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net