

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 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
- Egg Hunt Preparations – Egg Cartons and Candy
- Holy Week Schedule—pg. 9 of Bulletin
- Cut flowers for Easter Sunday Resurrection Cross
- Part Time Custodian Opening (See Michelle Gutekunst)

***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

Prelude
John Purifoy

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: A new heaven, A new earth
A new way of thinking, A new way of being.

All: You are making all things new.

One: No more Death, No more mourning
No more crying, No more pain.

All: You are making all things new.

One: Renew our minds to renew the world
by living out your commandment of love.

All: You are making all things new.

***Opening Hymn: WR # 322**

This is A Day of New Beginnings
All Verses

Lenten Gathering Prayer

All: Gracious God, as we near the end of our Lenten journey, we give thanks for the new thing that you are doing and for your provision in our wilderness.

As we have wandered, you have steadied us; you have provided manna, that we might not hunger, and you have provided water, that we might not thirst. We have gained new awareness as you have revealed your steadfast love. Open our lips, that we might join with all creation in singing your praise, O God. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Joy Gravely

One: Though we find much to boast about, we return again to God, who sees through our efforts to handle our life on our own. Hear again the tender invitation to speak plainly before God and one another. Let us confess our sins to God, first in silent prayer.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

All: Holy God, we confess to you our pain: Pain we inflict on others, Pain that wakes us in the night, Pain of brothers

and sisters and people unknown, Pain in this city, this nation, and this world. The Pain of systems unyielding.

Lord Jesus, enter into our pain: Bear the burdens we feel and create. Redeem what is crushing and wrong. By your Spirit, forgive us and heal us, set us free to love and to live.

Sung Response

Eleison, Have Mercy
Translation: Lord Have Mercy

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Rancy

$\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$ Choir Only

Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e - le - i-son. Ky-rie e -

10 ALL
-le - i-son Have mer - cy, I pray. 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: Joy Gravely

One: Our claim to forgiveness rests entirely in God's claim on us.
Jesus Christ restores us to life. Say it with joy!

All: **Jesus Christ restores us to life! Thanks be to God.**

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

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.

***Scripture Reading**

Scripture Reader: Corinna Purdon

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Luke 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.

You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

**Steadfast Love:
Fill Me with Laughter**

Song of Praise:

Rock of Ages
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, would my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; naked, come, I come to thee for dress; helpless look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die, I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. Rock of Ages, let me hide myself in thee.

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis &

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

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: Joy Gravely

**All: You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire.
Now use these gifts — use our lives — to liberate the
oppressed, break the bonds of injustice, feed the hungry,
welcome the poor, and unite the human family;
all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

We Serve

*Sending Hymn: WR # 257

What Wondrous Love is This
Verses 1 and 2

The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Lenten Playlist

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
(*Worship will conclude at the end of the video presentation.*)

Attendance – March 15

Onsite 88 Online 47

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Thursday, April 2, 2026: Maundy Thursday 7pm Service

Handwashing, Communion, and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 3, 2026: Good Friday 7pm Tenebrae Service of Shadows

A Journey of our Lord's Passion and Death told through Scripture and Song.
Combined service with St. John's Mickleys.

Sunday, April 5, 2026: Easter Sunday 930am Service

Resurrection Celebration

with flowering the Resurrection Cross and Holy Communion

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.

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.

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	14,031.27
Overall Percent	62.4%

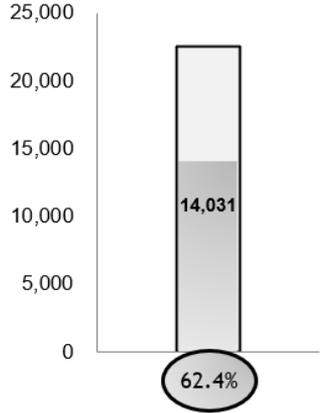
Last Week	
Start:	3/15/26
End:	3/21/26
Total:	6,615.46

Amt needed to reach Target

MARCH 2026	8,468.73
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



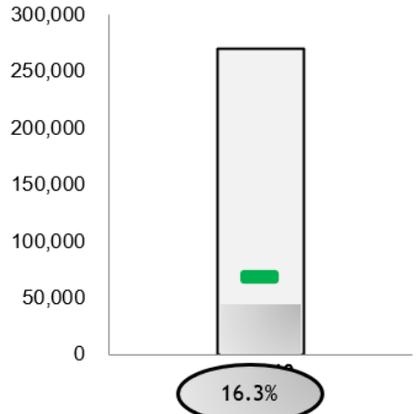
YTD OFFERINGS

MARCH 2026

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	67,500.00
Overall Total	44,110.46
Overall Percent	16.3%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



**CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22 – MARCH 29**

Sun 3/22	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour
Mon 3/23	9:00 am	Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Tues 3/24	9:00 am	Newsletter Mailing
	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Choir
Wed 3/25	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 3/26	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Fri 3/27	5:00 pm	St. George Church School
Sat 3/28	10:00 am	Egg Hunt
Sun 3/29	8:15 am	Adult Faith Formation Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday
	9:30 am	Faith Formation for Children
	10:30 am	Social Hour